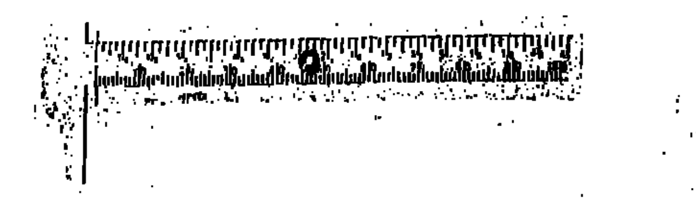
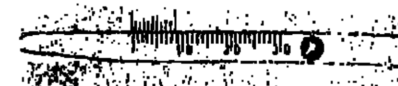
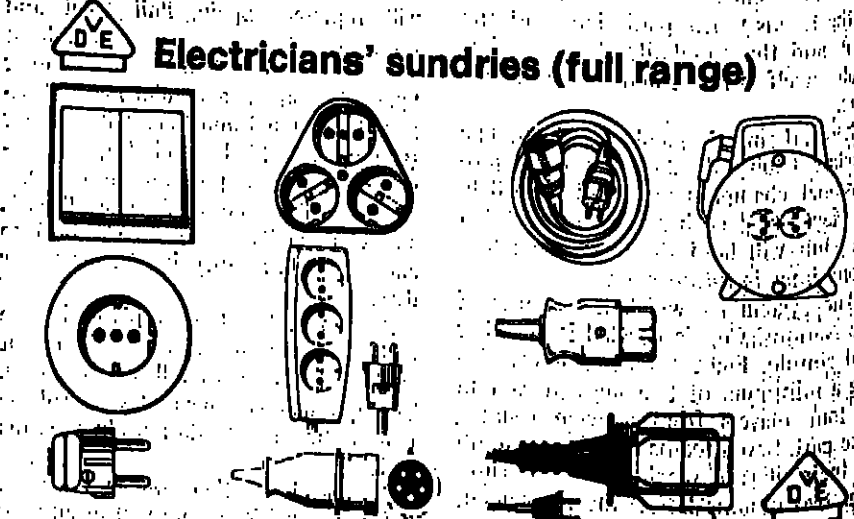








The German Tribune

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Brezhnev may try to win Bonn over

Leonid Brezhnev, after much hesitation, will be visiting Bonn in the first week of May. Whatever the reasons for his hesitation, he now has a clear reason for coming to Bonn.

Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States have not been so bad for some time and Brezhnev is going to try to woo the Federal Republic of Germany, and with it Western Europe, away from the United States.

He will certainly not expect Bonn, Paris, London and Rome to turn their backs on the United States. Nor will he expect to split Nato. But he will make every effort to exploit the increasing tensions between Europe and the US.

Annoyance in Bonn and Paris about American policies has grown apprecia bly in the last year. Not for a long time have the policies of an American President commanded as little respect in Europe as those of President Carter.

European confidence in the Washington government has sunk to zero: Leonid Brezhnev could hardly have chosen a better moment to visit to Bonn.

The Bonn government seems to be only vaguely aware of this context. Our neighbours are far more aware of it and fears have been expressed behind the scenes in several European capitals that Bonn could now decide that the time is right for an about-face.

The French have never quite overcome the fear that the Germans might change sides, as they did in 1939, and as Graf Yorck did in 1812 in Tauroggen. It is fortunate that President Giscard D'Estaing and Chanceller Helmut Schmidt are personal friends. This at least ensures that no such fears arise at government level.

Still, Herr Schmidt will receive the guest from the Kremlin in a manner different from that in which he would have received him two years ago. Over the years, German governments have got into the habit of thinking that world politics are the prerogative of the two big powers, the USA and the Soviet Union, with other states in East and West playing merely subsidiary roles, tagging along behind the big two.

Now the Americans are no longer the unquestioned leaders of the West they once were. The dollar is weak and so is the American President. He only narrowly avoided what could have been a disastrous defeat on the Panama Canal Treaty in the Senate recently.

The definite line towards the Soviet Union which, despite the setbacks and disappointments, was pursued consistently in the days of Henry Kissinger is gone. Kissinger's aim was that the Soviet Union should have a clear, fixed role in world politics, to make her acknowledge that she had a definite part to play in the maintenance of world peace.

Carter has returned to more traditional American ways of foreign policy thinking. His attitude towards Moscow springs from a deep-seated American need to see the world in terms of two sides, the good and the evil.

In his insistence on the question of human rights, Jimmy Carter has given his fellow countrymen a moral mission, something to fight for.

Carter's policies have clearly bemused the Soviet leadership, who no longer know what it should think of the US.

Every proposal from Washington is treated with great mistrust. The talks on strategic arms limitations, which could lead to the signing of a second Salt agreement, are suffering as a result. It is now by no means sure that agreement will be reached.

Indeed, the question of whether the two governments agree on the text of an agreement has almost become academic because President Carter has no chance of getting the necessary two-thirds majority in the Senate for a new agreement, however unsatisfactory it might be. The lack of clarity and uncertainty in American policies is also having a serious effect on Europe. That the Americans are insisting on European and Japanese help for the dollar and at the same time doing virtually nothing about the main cause of this weakness, the vast oil imports from the Arab states, is incomprehensible from the European point of view. That the US is insisting on stringent control of what is done with the uranium which they supply to friendly countries — controls to which no sovereign state would normally submit — has provoked anger and resistance.

The fact that President Carter first offered to produce the neutron bomb for the Europeans and was then on the point of banning production for ever has caused Europeans to shake their heads in disbelief.

Brezhnev must be rejoicing about all this. If ever the moment was ripe for driving a wedge between the Americans and the Europeans, this is it. Fortunately the chances of him succeeding in doing so are microscopically small.

Soviet policies are far too unimaginative and bureaucratically petrified for anyone to risk making such a daring move. The hoary old problem of whether West Berlin should be included in treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany will no doubt be an issue again soon.

Brezhnev will launch into the West on the neutron bomb issue, as if its production had not been postponed but decided upon.

And so this visit will end fruitlessly — however high-sounding speeches and official communiqués try to disguise this. There will not be a repeat of Tauroggen on the Rhine.

One thing that could result from the Bonn visit is that the Federal Republic of Germany could start playing a new role in the tough and far from encouraging process of detente between East and West.

In the absence of American leadership the Federal Republic of Germany could take the initiative and push forward the process with its own ideas.

This could be dangerous if this country moved away from her allies and acted completely on her own. But she will not do so. It is absolutely essential now to show the guest from the Kremlin that the wrangles in the West are no more than a family quarrel, whereas the conflict with the Soviet Union, as long as it continues its imperialist policies, is one from which the Germans will not deviate.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 21 April 1978)



Welcome for Kissinger

SPD leader Willy Brandt and former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger exchange warm greetings before the discussions on international economic problems at a meeting of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in the Hamburg Congress Centre.



Refugee gift

United Nations Commissioner for Refugees Poul Hartling in conversation with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in Bonn. The Federal Republic of Germany is to give DM5.5 million to alleviate the plight of refugees, particularly those in Africa and South-East Asia. (Photos: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Scheel's Iran visit can spell closer cooperation

Frankfurter Allgemeine

President Walter Scheel's state visit to Iran has a major bearing on future relations between Bonn and Teheran.

It is no coincidence that the official delegation was joined by Research Minister Volker Hauff. President Scheel's party also included State Secretary Rohwedder and representatives of German industry. The dialogue could prove of far-reaching importance.

In his talks, President Scheel stressed this country's political interest in Iran, for which there are two reasons.

For one thing, Iran has adopted a role aimed at securing peace in its region — of paramount importance because the energy lifeline of the Western world leads through the Persian Gulf.

For another, Iran is about to become a threshold power. Having undergone all the bitter experiences of a developing nation, it has now entered the industrial age.

Like Brazil, Iran is a suitable mediator in the North-South dialogue, and it is in Bonn's interest to strengthen that country's position on both issues.

Bonn's Iran policy cannot be realised by declamatory gestures. As a result, talks centred on German-Iranian cooperation projects of exceptional size. They primarily concern nuclear power stations and the enlargement of the Shah's navy.

If all these projects came to fruition, German-Iranian trade would rise to DM40,000 million — twice this country's combined trade volume with Brazil, the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia.

Bonn is obviously anxious to conclude these mammoth deals. Two nuclear power stations supplied by Germany are already being built in Iran and four others are being negotiated.

The Shah said Iran was interested in two more nuclear power stations, a project worth DM20,000 million. Considering the doldrums in which the German reactor industry finds itself, this would be more than welcome. Bonn is also interested in landing the order because of its effect on employment.

The bugbear is the financing: Iran wants to pay in oil, and German industry is not particularly interested in barter deals.

But for oil things are different, provided the price is right, making the oil saleable.

The supply of naval vessels by the Federal Republic of Germany was another major topic. There are six submarines, 12 frigates and a number of minesweepers under discussion.

There again, Bonn is particularly interested in this deal due to the precarious employment situation in shipbuilding.

During Herr Scheel's state visit, Bonn Defence Ministry experts were having talks in Tehran on the training of Iranian naval officiers by the German navy.

Germany views the coming negotiations with optimism, convinced that Iran is extremely interested.

President Scheel's visit has greatly improved the climate of German-Iranian relations and government circles expect that the most important project, the nuclear power stations, will be finalised by this summer.

On the periphery of Herr Scheel's visit, Iran was displeased that Foreign Minister Genscher did not accompany the President. He flew from Tokyo straight back to Bonn.

Herr Genscher justified this by the fact that his Iranian opposite number was absent from Tehran attending an international conference.

As is turned out, Iran's Foreign Minister was at home after all.

Harry Hamm

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 April 1978)

Tough road for union of conservatives

Plagued by doubts from within and hostility from without, the European Democratic Union came into being on 24 April at Klesheim near Salzburg.

The EDU describes itself as a working party, but behind this modest title it has a great aim — to open the way for cooperation between all the conservative and Christian Democratic parties in Europe.

This will be no easy task, because not all Christian Democratic parties want to play along. The Belgians and the Dutch reject the EDU. Tindemans, chairman of the European People's Party (EPP), has said: "EDU — over my dead body!"

CDU leader Helmut Kohl has said the CDU only belongs to one federation of parties — the EPP. This does not help the EDU. A number of the parties at Klesheim, among them the influential Giscardians from France, stressed that they were only there as observers.

Divided, the bourgheois parties cannot stand up to the socialists and their people's front partners inside or outside the EEC. It was high time the British conservatives, the Scandinavians and the neutral states were brought into the European dialogue.

The EDU has its fate in its own hands. That it is now only a loose asso-

Continued on page 3

Genscher on Namibia

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is cautiously optimistic on the prospects for the five Western members of the UN Security Council's Namibia initiative.

Having met his American, Canadian, French and British opposite numbers in London before the German-British summit, Herr Genscher said on 24 April that all parties had done everything possible to provide a blueprint for a peaceful solution of the Namibia problem.

In an interview, Herr Genscher said the proposals did justice to "our moral precepts" as well.

"It is important for us Germans not only to speak of human rights in Europe but to promote these rights in other parts of the world as well," he said.

The people of Namibia, he stressed, had to decide their future in free elections.

The Namibia proposals, to be discussed at a UN conference in New York, provide for free elections under UN supervision and the peaceful transfer of power to the black majority of the country.

It remains open whether Pretoria will be prepared to withdraw its troops.

The future of Walvis Bay, to which both sides lay claim, is also still uncertain.

Diplomatic circles in London indicated on 24 April that South Africa would in its own interest find it difficult to ignore a UN resolution.

Pretoria cannot simply reject the proposals because of the added weight lent to them by the participation in the preliminary deliberations of black African states.

Especially in the so-called frontline states there is great interest in a swift solution of the Namibia issue.

Dieter Stäcker

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 April 1978)

Berlin visit for Queen

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt will accompany Queen Elizabeth II on a side-trip to West Berlin during her forthcoming state visit.

This was decided in consultation with Prime Minister James Callaghan during the German-British summit on 24 April.

Herr Schmidt thanked the British government for the fact that the Queen will visit Berlin on her way to Kiel during her state visit from 22 to 26 May.

Bonn circles consider the Chancellor's decision an indication that he will do the same during President Jimmy Carter's visit in July.

(Die Welt, 26 April 1978)

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Anglo-German summit leaves policy differences intact

Frankfurter Rundschau

Considerable hopes were pinned on the German-British summit at Chequers, with political observers here and in Britain certain that the tensions arising from the different economic concepts of the two countries would lead to a session of plain speaking.

Nothing of the sort happened. On 24 April, James Callaghan and Helmut Schmidt presented a touching picture of unity in a televised debate.

The two heads of government supported each other's lines of argument, though Chancellor Schmidt was unable to resist the temptation to give Britain some advice.

The Germans, he said, respected the Britons' ability to muddle through difficult situations, "As long as they muddle in the right direction."

Despite all avowals of unity, there is no doubt that the Federal Republic and Britain steer different courses in economic policy.

Britain pins its hopes on more growth, expecting Bonn to implement measures that would revive the German and hence the world economy.

Decisions on this are to be reached at the Community summit in Bremen and the world economic summit in Bonn, both in JULY.

Should the Germans decide to provide an example, Mr Callaghan's Cabinet is prepared to follow and contribute towards stimulating growth in Britain.

Prime Minister Callaghan and Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey are keeping the doors open: a couple of weeks ago, they presented their 1978-79 anti-inflationary budget with minor tax relief and a slight increase in public spending, intimating that further measures could be considered after the summit. No figures were mentioned.

Germany is anything but impressed by Britain's belief in growth.

Before considering economic booster measures Bonn would like to put the foreign exchange market in order and, above all, have the dollar back on its feet.

On the German-British summit, insiders believe Bonn is planning drastic measures to that effect — either by creating a European monetary system or, at least, by forcing Britain to join the Snake, which London opposes.

Considering these conflicting views, it is not surprising that the two statesmen stressed unity and played down differences.

There was agreement that there should be no monetary war by Europe against the United States, doing too little to halt the erosion of its currency.

Chancellor Schmidt, said to have considered such a war, denied this repeatedly, and the two heads of government stressed that the dollar problem could only be solved in close cooperation with Washington.

But given the interdependence of the Western economies and competition among European countries, this is a truism.

Other disagreements were minimised. Both sides stressed the need for economic growth and settling monetary problems, saying all that mattered was the first step.

Despite emphasising common interests, Chancellor Schmidt remained faithful to himself, insisting on the priority of sound exchange rates.

At the Bonn summit (at the very latest) the two parties will again take up their opposing positions. The conflicts were not settled in London — they have only been postponed. *Dieter Stäcker*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 26 April 1978)

HOME AFFAIRS

FDP plans to keep friendly distance

The FDP (Free Democratic Party) went out of its way at its recent Land conferences to stress its independence, using its new formula of cooperation without alliance.

The FDP is prepared to cooperate with parties pursuing liberal policies but it rejects being identified with either of the two major parties.

This formula is clearly aimed at the voters, whom the FDP believes to be politically mature enough to vote for the FDP alone and not merely as the partner of either the Christian or Social Democrats.

There is a more matter-of-fact tone in the FDP camp now about ties with the other parties and in particular with the Social Democrats, their partners in the Bonn government for the past nine years.

What were once "close ties" are now simply described as connections, alliances have become mere agreements. Instead of committing itself to coalitions "for as long as there is a common fund of agreement," the FDP now only commits itself until the next elections.

When Werner Maihofer talks of the historic alliance between Social Democrats and Liberals today it sounds old-fashioned compared to what the FDP party leadership is saying.

The tactic of keeping its distance is the necessary result of the FDP's decision to form coalitions with different parties. Genscher, the FDP leader, has achieved the considerable feat of presenting this policy as an act of major political significance refuting the frequent accusation that the SPD and the FDP are one block party.

The strategy does not mean that the common stock of policies which the FDP shares with the SPD in the government coalition is running low. The CDU is well aware of this. On the other hand, the FDP undeniably runs the risk of losing its image by these coalitions with SPD and CDU. This risk is all the more serious as its profile is a vital factor in elections. It can only win new votes by maintaining a clear identity. All the party's regular voters can do is guarantee that the FDP will get over the 5 per cent hurdle.

The main task now is to make clear to the electorate why they should vote for the FDP and not for any other party, regardless of whether the FDP opts for coalition with the SPD or the CDU or for remaining in opposition.

Genscher has won the support of his party for this more business-like approach to the two major parties, but this does not make life in the Bonn and Land coalitions any easier. Agreements have to be strictly observed. Neither the FDP nor its partners can afford to swerve from them. The recent refusal of a number of SPD MPs to vote for the anti-terror laws underlined how sensitive the Bonn coalition is.

The FDP has also indignantly rejected a CSU offer to vote for the re-election of Walter Scheel as President in return for the FDP pulling out of its coalition in Bonn with the SPD and forming a government with the present Opposition. In doing so, the FDP has perhaps prematurely jeopardised Scheel's chances of being re-elected.

The time is right for the FDP to stand more firmly on its own two feet. Neither the CDU nor the SPD has so much to offer that the FDP must at all costs commit itself to one of tthem.

Heinz-Joachim Melder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 April 1978)



Point of emphasis: FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher in full flight during an address to a party conference at Bad Bevensen. (Photo: dpa)

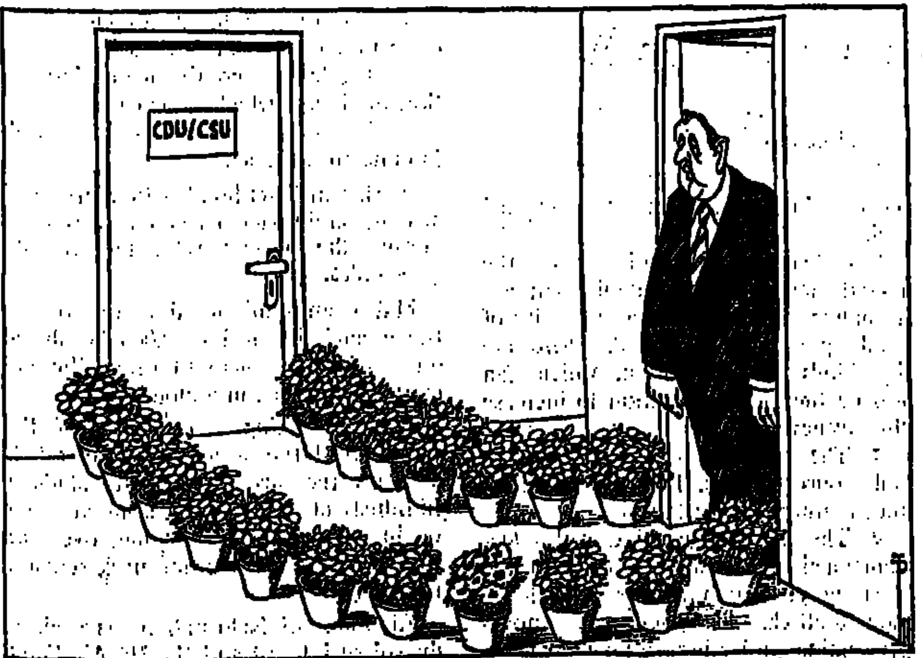
Continued from page 2

ciation of parties need not be a serious obstacle. If the EDU should succeed in forming a counter-weight to the Socialist International, the conservative doubters will no doubt see the light and join up.

The alleged incompatibility between the EPP, which is an EEC organisation of parties from EEC member states, and the EDU, whose members are from all over West Europe, would no longer be relevant.

The time has now come to stop the proliferation of conservative organisations in Europe. *H.-Herbert Holzamer*

(Die Welt, 25 April 1978)



The courtship of Genscher. (Cartoon: Peter Leger / Süddeutsche Zeitung)

Strauss gets ready to go national

Lübecker Nachrichten

Since December 1976 political observers have been waiting to see if the CSU would carry out its promise to liven up the German political scene by forming a national fourth party.

The CSU left this possibility open when it reversed its Kreuth decision to become fully independent of the CDU.

So far the CSU resisted all attempts to create a fourth party with the help of splinter groups. These attempts have now failed.

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss would now like to realise his long-cherished dream of making the CSU, which has so far confined its operations to Bavaria, a national party.

In doing so, Strauss would run the risk of the CDU moving into Bavaria. A recent poll showed that an independent CSU and an independent CDU could between them get 56 per cent of all votes.

However, it is doubtful whether this prospect alone would justify such a move by Strauss. This is not the only reason why Helmut Kohl's objections to the CSU's games are understandable. The CSU believes the European elections could be a good try-out for its policy of going it alone. Whether a return to the status quo would be possible after such a trial run it questionable.

The CSU would certainly be prepared to drop the experiment if there was any real chance of the FDP pulling out of the present government coalition with the SPD and forming a coalition with the CDU/CSU. However, there are no signs of this.

On the other hand, a split between the CDU and the CSU could be a danger to the FDP. Many FDP voters might be attracted to a CDU independent of the more conservative CSU.

Given this factor, it is quite conceivable that the real motive for Strauss's plan is to scare the FDP.

Werner Neumann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 April 1978)

Europarliament Act worries Saarland

The Bundesrat recently passed the European Elections Act, with only the Saarland voting against, clearing the way for the election of the 81 German deputies to the 410-man European Parliament.

The elections will be from 7 to 10 June 1979.

The Elections Act was passed unanimously in the Bundestag on March 16 after the third reading. The difficulties which arose in the Bundesrat over the new law were somewhat unexpected.

According to the Act, European MPs will be elected by proportional representation with nomination lists for one Land or with combined lists for all Länder. This means Länder with small populations have little prospect of being represented in the European Parliament.

Saarland Minister of Justice Rainer Wicklmayr, on behalf of the Saarland government, said the electoral law put the Saarland at a disadvantage and was therefore constitutionally questionable.

"Neither the people nor the political forces in the Saarland can understand that our Land, which is a vital European region and forms a bridge between Germany and France, should be without a representative in this European institution."

Herr Wicklmayr appealed to the other members of the Bundesrat to support the Saarland proposal that the Arbitration Committee should be called on to decide the matter.

The Saarland wants the law changed so that every Land will be guaranteed at least one seat in the European Parliament. In calling in the Arbitration Committee, the Saarland also wants to ensure that members of Land governments can be elected to the European Parliament.

On behalf of the Bonn government secretary of state Andreas con Schoeler of the Ministry of the Interior said the Saarland's objections on constitutional grounds were unfounded.

He agreed that it was politically desirable that each Land should have at least one representative in the European Parliament but there was nothing in the constitution which stipulated this.

When the vote on arbitration was taken, only Bavaria and the Rhineland-Palatinate supported the Saarland proposal. In the final vote, all the Länder except the Saarland voted for the Election Act.

The four parties in the Bundestag have already begun preparations for the elections. The Election Act contains a clause which will allow the CSU to run for election in Bavaria only.

The four parties are planning a huge electoral campaign next year. (Campaign costs will total 40 million deutschmarks.) It is hoped that there will be a very high turnout, though it is unlikely to match the 90 per cent in national elections.

The four party chairmen are likely to head the lists of their parties.

Diethart Goos

(Die Welt, 22 April 1978)

■ DEFENCE

Costly early warning bird is headache for Apel

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The members of the Bundestag budget committee look grim whenever a possible purchase by Nato of the US Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) is mentioned.

The Federal Republic of Germany would have to pay between DM1,200 and DM1,500 million for the system over the next few years.

Defence Ministry experts, on the other hand, stress the advantages of AWACS for Nato defence. The system would make it possible to detect enemy aircraft much earlier.

Bonn's new Defence Minister Hans Apel has defected from the opponents of the system to the other side — though not without a whole bundle of ifs and buts.

In his previous post as Finance Minister, Herr Apel had, as his senior staff members put it, "instinctively" opposed the project because he felt it would overtax the budget and be unlikely to take the parliamentary hurdles.

He even went so far as to write a letter to his opposite number in the Defence Ministry and now finds himself in the position of having to reply to his own letter.

Speaking to senior Bundeswehr officers recently, Apel said jokingly. "I can tell you one thing, there was no mincing of words in that letter."

In his reply the Defence Minister rejected his own objection as Finance Minister because he now sees the system in a different light and realises that deliberations within Nato under his predecessor, Georg Leber, had gone much too far to enable him to opt out.

As a result, Herr Apel took it upon himself in the past few weeks to brief the Bundestag defence and budget committees on the problems.

But his explanations were only a preliminary step and served primarily to test the mood in the committees. Decisions will be made later in parliament.

If everything goes according to plan, and if the United States agrees to Apel's condition to buy more German arms in return, the first 16 AWACS aircraft could be airborne by about 1980.

The core of the system is a mushroom-like fixture mounted on a Boeing 707 — the eye of the airborne warning system.

Flying at 30,000 to 40,000 feet, the airborne spy can detect aircraft at up to 600 kilometres and inform ground stations.

The system being airborne makes it vulnerable, and the members of the defence committee are determined to learn exactly how vulnerable. According to experts, however, there is no need for AWACS craft to operate in advanced positions. They can fly within protected airspace close to base.

Were such an early warning system to be on the ground, its range would be considerably smaller due to the earth's curvature.

The AWACS aircraft can not only give reconnaissance information to permanent ground command centres but can also guide and control operations on the front. This dual function is the actual advantage of the system.

Because AWACS is a Nato device, it would be operated by mixed ground and flying crews from member states.

At present, such a mixed force exists only at Nato staff headquarters. It is this very mixture which has given rise to concern among members of parliament.

The defence committee raised the question: "Has it been ensured that the extremely important national freedom of decision as stipulated by treaty will remain inviolate, especially with regard to command procedures?"

Another problem still to be solved is the coordination of the AWACS system with the British early warning system, Nimrod.

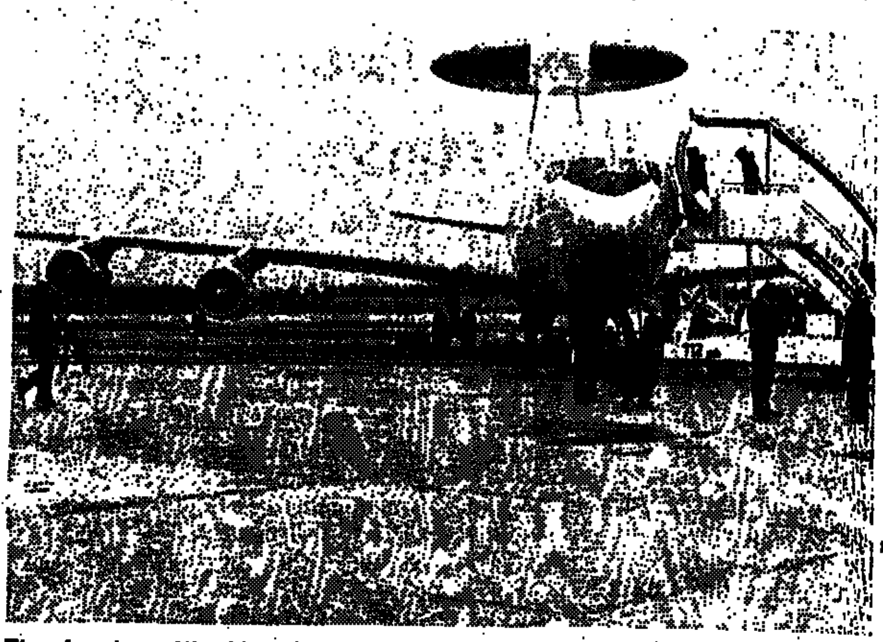
Britain has built ten aircraft for the same purpose with the aim of supporting its own industry. These craft, to do reconnaissance on Europe's northern flank, must be coordinated with Nato's AWACS craft and France's two AWACS planes operating outside Nato, another expensive element.

As much as Herr Apel might have transformed himself from a Finance into a Defence Minister, he is still conscious that no additional funds will be approved for the early warning system and he will have to manage with the money in the budget.

In fact, he evidently does not intend to ask his successor Hans Matthöfer to allocate additional funds to the defence budget.

He accepts the fact — and has made this clear to the Bundestag defence committee — that the German contribution towards the Nato early warning system will have to come from economy measures and a reorganisation of the defence budget. But this is opposed by the army and navy, who fear cuts in favour of the air force.

The exact amount of the German contribution is still uncertain. The DM1,200 to DM1,500 million for the purchase of 16 aircraft would be about one-third of the DM3,700 million total.



The American AWACS flying early warning system, the world's most expensive aircraft at DM180 million. (Photo: dpa)

Another third would have to be borne by the United States and the remainder by Italy and the Benelux countries.

Herr Apel insists that the smaller nations make a substantial rather than a symbolic contribution ... and his fears here are not unfounded.

Italy, for instance, is said to have already asked to contribute less than, say Luxembourg. This will be the subject of tough bargaining within the alliance — especially since the operating costs of about DM100 million a year also have to be shared.

The Defence Ministry has had DM35,000 million allocated to it for 1978. According to the medium-range financial planning, this is to rise to DM39,500 million by 1981.

But since this budget, devised last year, is out of keeping with economic development and tax revenues, it is likely that the defence budget increase will be smaller.

Firstly there is the assault tank Leopard II. The 18,000 on order will require DM6,500 million by 1986.

The 322 Tornado fighter planes to be bought will cost DM5,500 million over the next few years and the 175 Franco-German Alpha Jets, DM3,400 million.

The six frigates with helicopters on order will cost DM2,000 million and the 10 new patrol boats about DM1,000 million.

It is primarily these projects, totalling DM28,000 million, with which AWACS has to complete.

And since the Defence Ministry has no intention of forgoing other projects, the budget will have to be reshuffled and economy measures introduced.

Herr Apel has recently commissioned his staff to make proposals for measures in the armed forces' budget from 1979 to 1984 that would make the AWACS possible.

Although the task is not easy, it is not considered impossible.

It is obvious that, should Nato reach agreement, this would still have to be sanctioned by the Bundestag. And parliament's approval will be more readily forthcoming if certain terms are met in future negotiations.

For instance, some of the costly AWACS electronics could be produced by German companies under licence. The ground part of the system could be stationed in Germany, providing several hundred jobs in its region (there is some talk of Geilenkirchen near Aachen).

Finally, the Americans could at last get down to business on armaments cooperation and standardisation. Negotiations about the supply of the German anti-aircraft tanks Gepard and Roland have been on for some time. A positive decision by Washington could be helpful.

Heinz-Joachim Melder and Heinz Murmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 April 1978)

New German avalanche bomb causes Nato sensation

Hamburger Abendblatt

A new German weapon is causing a sensation in Nato circles — an avalanche of fire moving at 300 metres per second and making the earth quake.

The core of the multi-purpose device MW-1 is a container weighing 4.6 tons developed by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) and carried under the fuselage of Tornado or Phantom fighters.

The container has up to 4,000 bombs which can be showered by rocket on predetermined ballistic trajectories. The destructive power has hitherto been considered impossible for conventional devices.

A switch in the cockpit enables the aircraft crew to choose 90 different adjustments for size of area and density of bombing saturation desired. There are five kinds of ammunition, which can also be fired in combination to increase effectiveness:

- The hollow charge bomb against tank concentrations. This penetrates all known armament thicknesses.
- The flat charge mine with electromagnetic and acoustic sensors for the blocking of terrain sectors against armoured attack. This disseminates armour-penetrating projectiles and automatically destroys itself by means of a timing device when no longer required.
- The runway bomb which breaks open runways like an earthquake.
- The bunker bomb for the destruction of aircraft which — as customary in the Warsaw Pact nations — are housed in concrete bunkers.
- The shrapnel bomb with multisensors which, on impact, triggered by sensors, sprays the terrain with high-velocity projectiles.

MW-1 ammunition descends on to the ground like hail — 4,000 bombs at once. At the moment of firing, the aircraft is enveloped in a cloud of fire.

A high-ranking officer said of the precision of the device: "We can attack a target the size of a sports stadium hundreds of kilometres distant at night or in any weather, ploughing over the turf while the surrounding track remains undamaged."

Air forces of Nato nations have already voiced interest and the US Air Force is testing the device in America.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 April 1978)

■ PEOPLE

Egon Franke: the tireless worker for German unity

Bonn Minister of Intra-German Relations Egon Franke (SPD), who began his working life as a carpenter, was 65 on April 11.

The famous sociologist Max Weber once compared the task of a politician to drilling through a thick plank of wood. Toughness and persistence are essential qualities in the slow process of bringing about improvements. And toughness and persistence are Franke's outstanding qualities.

He has achieved great things in the often thankless detailed work of politics and has been a great asset to his party.

The Social Democratic Party can thank politicians like Egon Franke for the fact that it managed to get above 30 per cent of the vote from the 50s onwards, winning over many middle class voters. It is men like him that have won many voters for centrist SPD policies.

To see Egon Franke merely as a representative of a group within the SPD is to do him an injustice. The many appreciations of his achievements have concentrated on his success as a government Minister. Since he took up office in 1969, there has been a significant change in relations between the two German states.

The dialogue with the GDR has been difficult over the past nine years and there have been setbacks. But a number of treaties have been signed which have greatly helped people on both sides of the border.

Franke has been tireless in his efforts to facilitate travel between the two countries, to strengthen personal contacts. His optimistic saying: "We are 14 hours nearer reunification since yesterday" is typical of him.

Franke describes the work of his ministry as: "Here we have difficult and detailed work to do. We are not interested in pomp and show so much as in hard results."

This simple matter-of-fact style is far from typical of all politicians. Franke does not seek the headlines. But it is precisely this cool, reserved style which enabled him to negotiate the release of political prisoners in the GDR, help bring about marriages between GDR citizens and citizens of this country and reunify divided families.

Franke's concern for freedom is a consistent feature of the whole political career. When the Nazis took power, many in this country cut their political cloth according to the wind.



Egon Franke: asset to party, country (Photo: Sven Simon)

But Franke remained true to the political ideals of his youth. He paid a high price for this loyalty. He took part in resistance actions in his home city of Hanover, was imprisoned and later transferred to the notorious penal battalion 999.

Before the end of the war, Franke got to know Kurt Schuhmacher and became one of his closest political colleagues. Schuhmacher became leader of the SPD in the post-war years and after the war Franke was a Lower Saxony Land MP.

In 1951 he was elected to the Bundestag. He has been a member ever since.

On his 65th birthday, Egon Franke can look back on many years of political success. This unassuming politician has worked quietly but effectively over the years to help reunite those separated by the division of Germany. The SPD, of which he has been a member for nearly 50 years now, has much to thank him for.

Jochen Loreck

(Das Parlament, 15 April 1978)

Brand hits at loyalty checks

At a recent meeting of the SPD national executive Willy Brandt severely criticised the practice of checking on the loyalty to the constitution of candidates for the public service.

Brandt said the practices of some Länder in this respect were worrying and had to stop. The so-called Extremists' Decree of 1972 was now futile.

The party is considering how the practices Brandt criticised can be stopped.

(Die Welt, 25 April 1978)

Kai-Uwe von Hassel turns 65

Handelsblatt

DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

CDU politician Kai-Uwe von Hassel, a candidate for next years direct elections to the European Parliament, was 65 on 24 April.

This main interests are European and international politics, and he is often seen at international party congresses.

Herr Von Hassel is chairman of the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) and vice-president of the European People's Party (EVP).

He was born in East Africa in 1913, the son of a German colonial officer, and spent his formative years in politics in Schleswig Holstein. After the "Spiegel" affair, Konrad Adenauer appointed him Bonn Minister of Defence to replace Franz Josef Strauss.

Here he had the onerous task of defending the Bundeswehr decision to buy the Starfighter. In the Grand Coalition of 1966 he was appointed Minister for Refugees.

(Handelsblatt, 20 April 1978)

Alex Möller turns 75

Alex Möller, the SPD's most outstanding financial man in Bundestag and government, was 75 on 26 April.

Möller decisively influenced SPD budgetary and financial policy for about 15 years. Despite his expertise, recognised by all parties, his term of office as Bonn Minister of Finance was short — from 1969 to 1971.

Möller, who always stressed the need for solidarity, resigned from the Cabinet because his colleagues made heavier demands on the annual budget than he could accept.

His personality also played a part in his resignation: he is rather withdrawn and his critics accused him of over-sensitivity.

A Social Democrat since 1922, Möller's political career began early. In 1928 he was the youngest MP in the Prussian Landtag. Immediately after the war he was leader of the SPD in the Stuttgart Landtag, then he was elected to the national executive. Three years later he was deputy party leader in the Bundestag.

dpa

(Handelsblatt, 25 April 1978)

Death of man who kept Berlin free

Lucius Clay, former American Military Governor in Germany and organiser of the 1948 Berlin airlift, is dead.

The people of West Berlin owe their freedom to his uncompromising attitude during that crisis. The Federal Republic of Germany too has much to thank him for. He helped speed up her integration into the Western nations after the terrible crimes of the Hitler era.

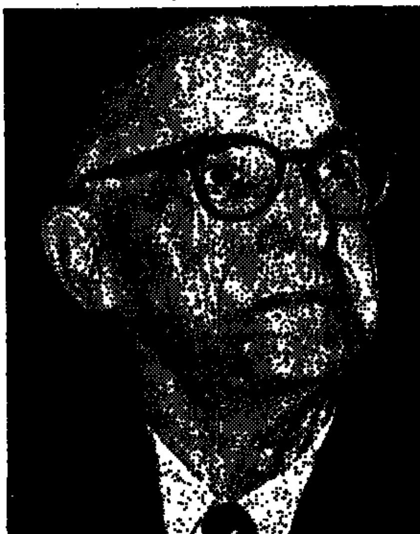
Lucius Clay will go down in history as the man who won one of the great battles of the Cold War without the loss of a single life. Three years after the war, the Soviet Union blockaded West Berlin and the people of the city were faced with the choice of starving or capitulating.

President Truman asked General Clay, the American Military Governor in Germany, if he could get supplies to Berlin by air. Clay's answer was a simple "Yes."

The Berlin airlift began. For ten months, the two-and-a-half million people of Berlin were supplied with necessities by the airlift, one of the major technical and organisational achievements of modern times. Berlin was saved from Soviet rule.

This was undoubtedly the height of Clay's career. The son of a Georgia senator, he started his military career at the famous Westpoint Academy. As a young officer he was fascinated by technology. He became an expert on building, airports, ports and dams.

During World War Two he organised the invasion supply lines. He made a name for himself outside military circles



Lucius Clay: man who saved a city (Photo: dpa)

when he got the port of Cherbourg, which had been destroyed, back in working order in a short time.

His post-war career reflected the changes in German-American relations. At first he was very tough on the defeated German people. But he soon came to realise that the black and white picture painted by war propaganda did not correspond to the political realities and gradually softened his approach. Later his attitude could even be described as friendly.

Clay returned to the US in 1949 and retired from the army. Twelve years later, after the Berlin Wall was built, President Kennedy sent him back to Berlin.

As Special Commissioner in West Berlin, his task was to personify the United States' readiness to defend the city. His policy was clearly military without being martial. He demonstratively underlined the right of America and her Western allies to free access by ordering troop movements along the transit autobahns.

Clay also underlined the US right to a presence in East Berlin according to the Four Power status of the city. When the GDR attempted to limit the allies' right of access to East Berlin, Clay ordered tanks to Checkpoint Charlie in Friedrichstrasse.

A few days later, Clay received orders to withdraw them because Washington feared this kind of military pressure would reduce the chances of a diplomatic solution to the Berlin crisis.

By then the purpose of the show of strength had been achieved. Clay had forced the Soviet Union into a counter-demonstration and an acknowledgement that the Soviet Union and not the GDR was responsible for East Berlin.

Just over six months later Clay told President Kennedy that his mission was completed. The pall of fear had lifted from the city.

Liselotte Müller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1978)

Kühn retires next October

Northrhine-Westphalian Prime Minister Heinz Kühn (SPD) will retire next October and probably hand over office to either SPD Land party chairman and Land Minister of Education Johannes Rau or to Land Minister of Finance Diether Posser.

After months of often contradictory speculations on statements by Kühn and SPD resolutions, deputy SPD Land chairman and Bundesrat Minister Christian Zöpel told a press conference in Düsseldorf: "We have agreed that the change should take place this October."

Zöpel said that the SPD would have to know who was to succeed Kühn by the end of the summer holidays.

dpa

(Handelsblatt, 20 April 1978)

INDUSTRY

Hanover Fair barometer is showing business alarm

Süddeutsche Zeitung

The Hanover Fair, the world's largest industrial show, has the reputation of being an economic barometer, registering developments more accurately than any government projection.

The fair creates and registers a business climate consisting of many individual assessments, concrete deals and psychological signals, helping business to arrive at policy decisions.

Unlike former shows, this year's fair leaves little room for analytical sandbox games because the economic background of virtually all industries represented there can be judged.

It is perfectly reasonable only two days after the opening to conclude that the 32nd Hanover Fair is marked by deep concern about the future international competitiveness of German industry.

The basic question is whether German industry, due to the constant appreciation of the deutschemark against the currencies of major trading partners, has reached a point at which we must expect considerably reduced exports, accelerated by world-wide trade restrictions.

Or is the technological standard of German industry still so outstanding that foreign customers will buy from us although they have to pay more and more?

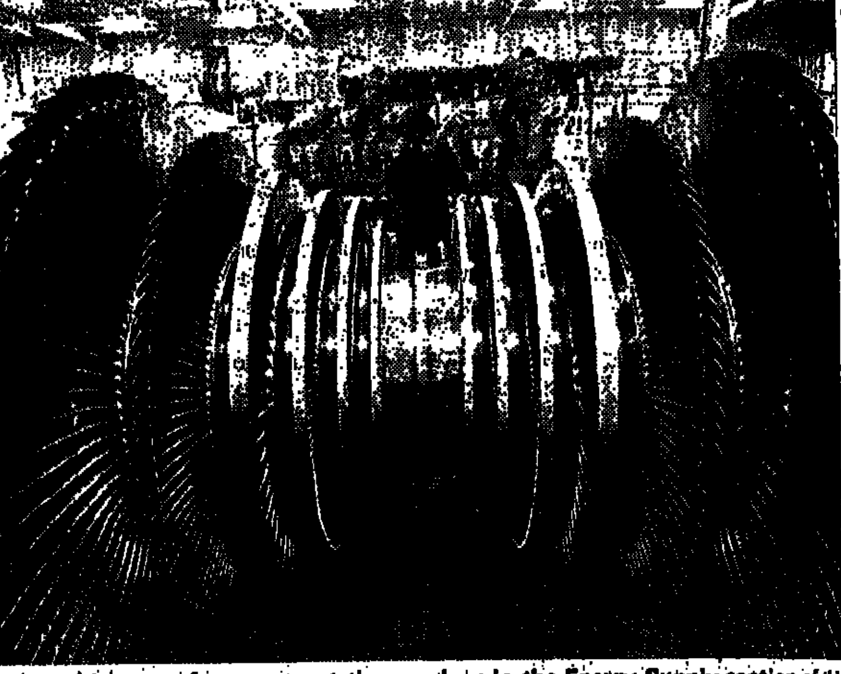
The concern behind this question is understandable when one takes into account that there is hardly one company represented at the show not heavily dependent on exports.

Up to now it seemed as if German industry was coping relatively well with the constant appreciations of the deutschemark. In fact, 1977 saw the second largest trade surplus in the history of the Federal Republic of Germany despite new trade barriers.

German industry benefited from the fact that the inflation rate in the most important foreign buyer countries meant a considerable time lag before foreign exchange parities were effected, if ever. This has largely offset the disadvantages of the deutschemark appreciation.

But this situation changed suddenly with the rapid weakening of the dollar, which hit the deutschemark parity with great impact. At the same time, inflation slowed in most industrial countries, further weakening the competitiveness of German industry.

Viewed against this foreign trade backdrop, it is not surprising that the question of further development of do-



Giant turbine rotor for a power station on show in the Energy Supply section of this year's Hanover Fair, one of several sections devoted to specialised industries. (Photo: dpa)

mestic demand is secondary at the Hanover Fair.

Experience with previous economic booster programmes has taught even incorrigible optimists that an anti-cyclical economic policy looses its effectiveness when exports stagnate in a country as dependent on foreign trade as the Federal Republic.

The call for further booster programmes has not been raised at the fair — especially in view of the realisation that continued costly economic flashes in the pan must have their fiscal and credit policy effects on the economy. That is, unless we set the money presses going, thus stepping on the inflation gas pedal, something already done by this year's wage deals.

Disregarding a few industries such as automobiles, office equipment and computers, all doing relatively well due to good domestic demand, there is no silver lining for capital goods manufacturers.

This applies particularly to areas like steel, or man-made fibres which suffer from global overcapacity and attendant price erosion.

It is not surprising that most exhibitors smile disdainfully over the forthcoming international economic summit in Bonn and the efforts to "fatten" the European Snake and put a halt to international protectionism.

What matters for business is that order books are in danger of showing gaping holes because the hallmark "Made in Germany" evidently no longer guarantees export success.

Few believe the economic cart can be pulled out of the mire thanks to crisis management in Bonn.

Most exhibitors seem to have resigned themselves to saying farewell to growth.

Gerhard Hennemann
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 April 1978)

Business puts the case for automation

The provocative catchphrase at this year's Hanover Fair is streamlining and automation.

Business and industry vehemently defend making use of technical progress, even at the cost of jobs, in order to remain competitive.

They lament West Germany's more than one million jobless, but say we must come to terms with this because forgoing technical progress would jeopardise even more jobs.

Even politicians at this year's Hanover Fair favoured further automation.

Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff (FDP) said it was impossible to tell to which extent new developments, especially in microprocessors will lead to changes on the job market. But he refused to accept terms like "job killers".

Research Minister Volker Hauff, SPD, was more cautious. He, too, recognised the necessity for streamlining for competitiveness, but not at the cost of jobs in entire industries.

He thinks in terms of a technologically-political action in which all social groups — business, trade unions, scientists and state — would join to explore the effects at an early stage. He wants technical change to be dominated by social considerations.

Many arguments on the issue have been voiced at the Hanover Fair. How confused the reasoning was can be demonstrated by two examples: some businesses blame high wage demands for heavy automation and thus the elimination of jobs. Others, like the computer industry, demand more automation to achieve a higher standard of living through higher wages.

But is a higher standard of living an objective worth striving for, or is it a disaster? Automation can be both a blessing and a curse, and no business should gloss over this.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 April 1978)

Trade fair in need of a new approach

At the close of last year's Hanover Fair exhibitors displayed reasonable optimism. Most industries registered increased inclination to spend, although there was more talk of an upswing for individual companies than for whole industries.

There were no spectacular deals made at the fair, usually considered an economic barometer. But many exhibitors thought there were indications of good follow-up business.

It turned out that the hopes were misplaced. Even before last year's show opened, there were observers who held that German industry's investment inclination was very low.

As a result, they said, the only chance of a more sustained upswing was stepped-up investment, more than the previous year. Hanover was to give the signal.

But this signal failed to come and it remains to be seen whether this year's fair will produce it.

The fact that four exhibition halls, with a total floor area of 30,000 square metres, remain empty and that the fair is the smallest since 1962 is not exactly an indication that it will turn out a better economic barometer than in previous years. Unless of course we take the shrinking fair as indicative of the economy as a whole and interpret the unused exhibition space as proof of economic weakness, which would certainly not be wrong.

But the empty exhibition halls might also be due to the diminishing interest of exhibitors in a multi-product show in which the number of schoolchildren and sightseers equals that of potential buyers.

In rented space, this year's fair with 345,000 square metres is 57,000 square metres smaller than its predecessor.

In the open-air exhibit area, rented space dropped from 136,000 square metres to 107,000 due to the alternating exhibition rhythm in mechanical engineering.

Construction machinery takes up only 29,600 square metres of open-air space and one hall, compared with a total area of 77,000 square metres last year. The big manufacturers are absent.

Hanover is well aware that the time of multi-product shows is over. It also realises that it has missed the boat for a fair open to the trade only.

What is to be done? Hanover has resorted to system shows ("Energy Supply, Transformation, Distribution", "Research and Technology" and "Components Market").

But whether this can be a substitute for specialised trade fairs remains doubtful.

It is also doubtful whether an investment injection (1977: 25 instead of 14 million deutschemarks) is enough. Even if the entire investment plan for 1977 to 1981 encompasses DM110 million — a sizeable amount — it is still doubtful whether this will make Hanover more attractive to the exhibitor.

An entirely new fair is thinkable in which only a few industries would be represented — for instance office and information technology, electrical engineering, steel and mechanical engineering and which would then be intensified. If this were the case, the organisers would not have to worry from year to year whether everybody would be represented.

But they would have to come up with a concept turning this show into a "Fair of Trade Fairs".

This presupposes imaginativeness because only imaginative ideas can increase the number of exhibitors in specialised industries.

Merely increasing the range of exhibits, in other words of branches of industry, would be retrogression in an era of highly-specialised fairs.

Hanover, too, must specialise but not as a sightseeing show.

Lower Saxony's capital will have to resign itself to no longer being the economic barometer par excellence.

Though it might have been this one time, it no longer gives readings.

If the organisers have drawn the conclusions from this — as they are said to have — it will be interesting to watch their future activities.

Hanspeter Müller
(Handelsblatt, 17 April 1978)

ECONOMY

Lambsdorff is cool over institutes' tax cut plan to boost economy

The recommendation by five economic institutes that Bonn reduce taxes to stimulate the economy has been received with reserve by Economic Affairs Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff.

He said he considered any discussion inopportune and meaningless now. The federal government would not discuss possible steps to boost the economy until it had reliable information on economic trends and foreign trade.

But most business associations welcomed the recommendations of the institutes.

Herr Lambsdorff agreed with the institutes that the rapid depreciation of the dollar and the increased fierceness of collective bargaining have dampened business prospects, leading to investment restraint.

Overall economic development in the first few months of this year had been "not inconsiderably distorted" by monetary turbulence and wage disputes.

In their spring report, the economic research institutes of Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Kiel and Essen were agreed that the GNP would grow by a mere 2.5 per cent (in real terms) this year.

In its annual economic report, the Bonn government had considered 3.5 per cent growth feasible, though dependent on numerous domestic and foreign trade elements.

The institutes explained their downward amendment of last autumn's report by 0.5 per cent as due to the dollar weakness and labour disputes.

Last autumn's optimism, they say, has largely dissipated, and the economy is generally unstable.

To overcome this they recommend a coordinated policy by the state, the Bundesbank and the parties to collective bargaining that would go beyond securing what has been achieved to promote sustained growth.

These are the recommendations:

Fiscal Policy: A new income tax rate that would provide relief for the lower and medium brackets should be implemented as soon as possible. Priority should be given to the elimination of the tax bracket leap from the proportionate to the progression zone. Furthermore, the progression effect of income tax should be countered.

If the new tax rates which, according to Finance Ministry calculations, would cost at least DM11,000 million cannot be implemented swiftly, five per cent across-the-board reductions should be granted under stability legislation. This would lead to a loss of revenue of DM7,000 million in 1979. The consolidation need must not become a maxim of fiscal policy, and growth must be promoted through public investment.

Monetary Policy: The institutes recommend that the Bundesbank gradually reduce the heavy money supply expansion of the past few months. It is unreasonable to attempt to achieve the eight per cent target (increase of money supply, ed.) without regard for overall economic risks.

But a slowdown in the expansion in the money supply can only be achieved if no further large-scale foreign exchange purchases are made. There is much to indicate that such interventions on currency markets have kindled rather than dampened unrest.

Wage Policy: This year's round of collective bargaining has led to considerably lower wage deals than in 1977 but business' profit margins are still lower than those of 1976, making this the only year in which the distribution of incomes was reversed.

In 1979, the parties to collective bargaining will again be faced with the task of orientating wage deals by the improved profit expectations of business.

Instead of tough labour disputes, new forms of bargaining should be found that would adapt wage deals to changed economic conditions.

Labour Market: Since unemployment is not diminishing, the institutes recommend that the parties to collective bargaining agree on shorter working times, as was customary until a few years ago. This should take place in small steps and to a different extent for each branch of business and be linked with forgoing wage offsets.

Reduction of the flexible retirement age and extended training periods should be considered as a way of reducing the supply of labour.

The German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin and the Rhineland-Westphalian Institute in Essen have put forward extensive dissenting opinions.

The Berlin institute opposes tax reductions, holding that their effectiveness would be relatively small and government investment programmes would take effect more swiftly.

The Essen institute sees the key to stepped-up growth in the trade unions, maintaining that their return to a behaviour in keeping with economic conditions is more important than anything else.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 April 1978)

Bonn waives debts for poor nations

Bonn intends to waive all the debts of the poorest developing nations.

Development Aid Minister Rainer Offergeld, SPD, said in Bonn on 19 April that these countries at present owed the Federal Republic of Germany DM 1,800 million.

Annual repayments amounted to DM 80 million.

Herr Offergeld said that decision on waiving the debts of the 30 poorest developing countries would be made on an individual basis.

Credits to this group of countries have been particularly "soft" with durations of 50 years and an interest rate of 0.75 per cent.

The Minister said his government's decision to waive the debts of the poorest developing nations was unlikely to be popular but what mattered was to help them.

Two-thirds of Germany's development aid flowed back into this country in the form of Third World orders, he said. This secured more than 40,000 jobs in 1976.

dpa
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 20 April 1978)

Policy argument is ready to start raging again

The lull in the economic discussion is over — and not only because of the downward amendment of the growth forecast to 2.5 per cent.

The revival of the subject is due to an economic and political constellation in which the Bonn government could not stem conjecture even if it were convinced that doing nothing was the best policy at the moment.

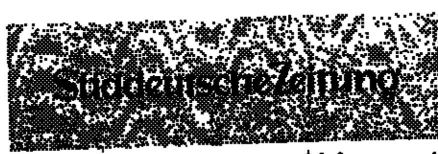
The Copenhagen Summit growth target of 4.5 per cent (for the Community as a whole) and the domestic 3.5 per cent target being a pipedream, the public, supported by political parties and groups, will conclude: less growth, more government programmes.

All the catchphrases for a major debate have been provided by the economic research institutes: wage policy, shorter working time, monetary risks, public spending and tax relief.

There is no reason to disbelieve the government that it has no intention of doing anything at the moment — and, indeed, does not know what it could possibly do with any chance of success.

But it takes neither crystal-gazing nor wishful thinking to come up with the following forecast for the outcome of the new economic policy debate: by mid-1978 Bonn will at least say that a programme is in the making, centering on further tax relief.

Despite likely opposition from large segments of the trade unions and SPD members of parliament, pressure by the nation's political forces will go in that direction. And this will be the govern-



ment's only instrument which can at least do no harm — even if it does no good.

Other avenues will soon prove impracticable. The government has no way to impose moderation on the trade unions since it can hardly be more outspoken in its wage recommendations than it was this year if the parties to collective bargaining are to retain their autonomy.

This year's wage deals exceed the maximum recommendations in the annual economic report, and the government cannot be blamed for amending its growth target accordingly.

The trade unions, the SPD parliamentary party and the CDU social affairs committees are once more raising the issue of shorter working times.

But can this reduce the number of jobless? An amendment of the working time regulation could do no more than adapt the maximum permissible weekly working time, dating back to the late 30s, to present conditions.

Even if the lawmakers were to go so far as to reduce the number of hours in keeping with today's criteria, there would still be the question of wage offsets, and this would have to be dealt with by the parties to collective bargaining.

German Confederation of Trade Unions chairman Heinz Oskar Vetter is at present resorting to formulas along the lines of "a full offset for shorter working time is one thing, and shorter working time with wage increases in real terms is another."

This shows that the trade unions are still far from a consensus. And there is nothing the government can do on its own.

The situation over growth risks due to foreign exchange rates is similar. It seems the Americans have permitted themselves to be convinced that the dollar rate does not only concern them.

But, for the time being, the Chancellor should forget his idea of a major European currency Snake as an export-stabilising element because fixed exchange rates in Europe would primarily export inflation, which has brought some of our neighbours to the verge of incapacitation in their economic policy. There is no need for us to burden ourselves with such problems as well.

What remains is therefore a growth-oriented fiscal policy. Stepped up public spending is a remedy to be found in any textbook on economic policy.

But which spending is to be stepped up? Proposals are coming in from all quarters, but they primarily concern social consumption, which should actually be reduced in favour of greater investment scope. These investments are piling up in a mammoth bottleneck, amounting to a two-digit billion figure, resulting from red tape, court proceedings and citizens' initiatives.

The politicians will thus hardly have any choice but further tax relief. Experience over the past three years — investment subsidies, corporate tax reform, reduced capital tax, better deductibles — is hardly encouraging, and it is unlikely that tax relief will prove very effective from one day to the next.

All that says anything for tax relief as a preliminary step before tax reforms is that it can do no harm and might provide that medium-range security necessary to stimulate private investment.

Politicians and associations calling for tax relief must bear in mind that there is no way of re-establishing the arithmetically calculable security of the '50s and 60s.

The recipes of the past have become obsolete. But there is no push-button way of engendering growth now.

Hans D. Barbier
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 April 1978)

■ AVIATION

German air industry flying high as Hanover fair opens

Former Economic Affairs Minister Hans Fridcrichs issued a significant warning at the opening of the aviation show in Hanover in 1976.

"Here in Europe we have managed to play down national competition in some products", he said.

"But until this danger has been completely overcome I can only warn against *reserving markets. Once we start doing* so, we could soon be faced with slogans like 'Buy British', 'Buy French' or 'Buy German'. This retrogression into nationalism and sales regimentation would be too high a price."

The warning showed signs of coming true a few months ago when the German-Dutch aerospace concern VFW-Fokker, for years the vaunted model of European cooperation, met its Waterloo with the first German jetliner VFW 614. The company went to the verge of collapse and cast a dark shadow on the hopes of the German aviation industry.

This gave way to euphoria just before the International Aviation Show ILA '78 from 26 April to 4 May.

The defeat of the VFW 614 has been offset by the Airbus A 300 for short and medium-haul traffic, whose development was secured by the German and French governments with subsidies and guarantees of 1,000 million dollars.

Since the Eastern Airlines' (the world's second largest) order for 23 Airbuses A 300 B-4 (worth DM1,500 million) with options for nine more, and 25 *smaller Airbuses A 300 B-10*, the green light for the birth of an "Airbus family", the breakthrough seems made.

This is the first time a European jetliner has gained a foothold in the American market. There is already a rumour that Allegheny Airlines and Pacific Southwest Airlines (PSA) may follow suit.

Ludwig Bölkow, former board chairman of Messerschmitt-Bölkow (MBB) and president of the National Association of the German Aerospace Industry, announced only a few days before the opening of ILA '78 that he foresaw no major employment problems in the German aviation industry.

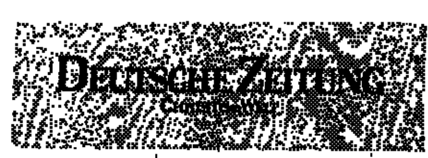
The success of the Airbus, the series production of the fighter plane Panavia, the booming sales of the BO 105 helicopter and the remarkable performance of German technology in various space projects support Herr Bölkow's forecast.

The long-term cooperation agreement between the European aviation companies Aerospatiale, British Aerospace, MBB and VFW-Fokker, aimed at developing a joint and competitive organisation for the development, manufacture and sale of civilian aircraft, must be viewed against the same backdrop.

The intention is not only to sell the Airbus family but also JET, a new short and medium-haul craft in two versions with 120 and 160 seats.

But there is once again a spanner in the works of European cooperation, evidenced by the fact that Rolls Royce is out of the running as engine manufacturer for JET and British Aerospace is therefore stalling on its partnership. This is the only explanation for British Airways' decision in favour of the Boeing 737 as a successor to the ageing Trident.

This "American solution", which does not fit into the concept of European



aviation policy, is the only shadow on European cooperation just before the opening of ILA '78.

Bonn's State Secretary Martin Grüner, *the declared redeemer and coordinator* of the German aerospace industry, who is to coordinate national industries in a European framework, will find it hard to come up with suitable words about a European alliance at the Hanover aviation show.

The aviation industry, which in Germany has a turnover of more than DM5,000 million and employs 57,000 highly-qualified people, is full of optimism.

Some 60 per cent of exhibitors in Hanover come from abroad, the United States group being the largest, dominated by General Aviation.

Beechcraft will have 10 models, Cessna 18 and Piper 19, emphatically confirming the leading position of US manufacturers.

The figures speak for themselves: The United States produced 16,906 sports and executive planes in 1977, Cessna providing 8,839 units, equalling 51.1 per cent of turnover. The Pennsylvania Piper Aircraft Corporation accounted for 4,498 craft.

Compared with previous shows, ILA '78 will be more trade-oriented. There will be none of the big hits and spectacular craft which in 1976 attracted more than 200,000 visitors. There will be hardly anything new although 140 more aircraft will be shown than in 1976.

Dornier will present its prides, the Skyservant and the Alpha Jet, MBB will be represented by Germany's most successful post-war flying machine: six BO 105 helicopters.

Laymen and experts alike are interested in the costly and technically fascinating MRCA Tornado fighter plane.

Overshadowed by traditional prestige craft (primarily military), there will be exhibits worth seeing such as the Soviet short and medium-haul YAK-42 with seating for 120. It had its maiden flight on 7 March 1975 and 2,000 are to be built by the late 80s. This craft has not been seen in Germany.

The Polish foreign trade organisation for the aviation industry, Pezetel, will present its one-seater agricultural plane, the PZL-106A KRUK with a top speed of 200 km/h and a working speed of 120—160 km/h. The "manure bomber" is not only suited for agricultural purposes but is also a pleasure for aircraft buffs to look at.

The German aviation industry has more to offer than will be shown in Hanover. But there is little incentive although it could provide colour amid the drabness of the "giants".

That the German glider industry's "super orchids" — costly top-performance fibreglass craft in the industry's jargon — will be absent simply proves that they need no promotion.

Much will be new at ILA '78. The airport will present Craft of our Time, and in the airport building there will be exhibits on the scheduled and charter traffic of the 80s, safety problems and future navigation systems, as well as modern passenger processing methods to make departure more tolerable. Fully automated landing systems blueprints will also be on show. Here technicians and scientists have largely reached consensus though many details remain to be solved.

One of the objectives of ILA '78 will be to cope with growing air traffic and its problems in small Europe. This has to be achieved jointly; no other branch of industry is so dependent on cooperation.

As a result of cooperation, evidenced by the Airbus, the Americans in many instances no longer have an edge over Europe's aviation industry.

Karl Morgenstern

(Deutsche Zeitung, 21 April 1978)



The sleek MRC Tornado jet fighter draws a crowd at the Hanover aviation show ILA 78, with Le Bourget and Farnborough one of Europe's big three showcases for the world's aircraft industry. This year 170 civil and military aircraft are on display, including Germany's most successful post-war flying machine, the BO 105 helicopter. (Photo: dpa)

■ SATELLITES

One, Zero... Europe finally has a lift-off into space

Europe's ascent into space has been slow and painful. But despite this European unmanned satellites have been a major success and prospects for the future look good.

The unending financial debates within the European Space Authority (ESA) and nationalistic attitudes of some member states mean progress is very slow.

The most important step towards a space industry independent of the USA is the development of a European rocket. The experiments with European rockets between 1971 and 1973 were miserable failures and cost DM2 billion.

The new European rocket hope is called Ariane and Bonn has pumped DM388 million into the project since 1973. Four prototypes have been built and tested, yet no-one knows precisely what they are capable of. Which is why Bonn is not putting any money into large scale production until the tests are completed.

So far, the Europeans and the Germans have performed a number of successful space experiments using American rockets. Two Helios satellites were launched in 1974. Twelve experiments were conducted to find out about the interaction of the sun and the earth's atmosphere and interplanetary space and nine German institutes were involved in experiments to measure solar wind, cosmic rays and even polar lights.

Symphonie, a joint German-French project, is of purely scientific value, a news satellite launched on December 19 1974. It uses technology completely different from the Intersat IV class commonly used today. Nasa supplied the Thor Delta rocket, but it also imposed the condition that the Europeans were not to derive any commercial benefit from the satellite. The satellite could transmit two colour television programmes or 600 telephone calls at the same time.

Meteosat, a European weather satellite, is sending back remarkably clear infrared weather pictures. It is one of seven world weather observation satellites over different parts of the world forming a complete meteorological network.

The pictures Meteosat sends back are analysed at the Cologne University Institute of Geophysics and Meteorology. Professor Raschke of the institute helped work out the satellite's scientific programme.

A European satellite somewhat sadly off course at the moment is Geos. The launching with a Nasa rocket in April of last year did not go according to plan. Despite this, Geos continues to send back data on the earth's magnetosphere to its ground station in Michelstadt in the Odenwald.

The European Spacelab being built at Erno in Bremen is a mayor European project. There is unanimity about this at Esa. The spacelab will be put into orbit by the American space shuttle to conduct chemical, physical and other experiments in weightless conditions. Esa is spending DM33 million on the experiments alone.

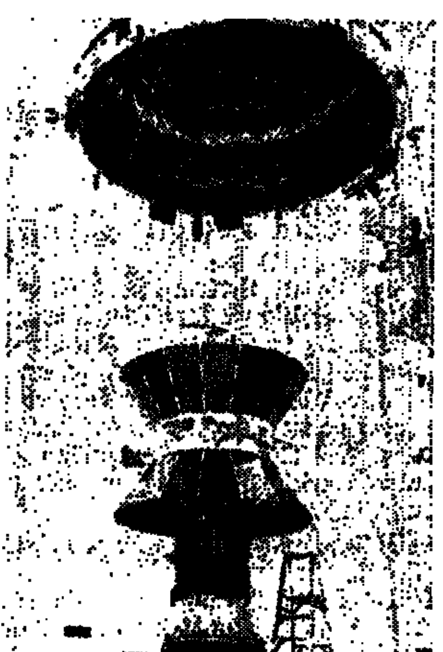
The Orbital Test Satellite is worthy of our attention for two reasons. One is that it and its Thor Delta rocket exploded precisely 57 seconds after launching on 13 September 1977; the other is that it was built in Europe on the building block system. This news satellite operates between 11 and 14 Giga-Hertz, whereas normal news satellites operate between 4 and 6 Giga-Hertz. The building block system means that it is possible to install various electronic units in the standard chassis, cutting costs considerably.

American and European scientists have high hopes for Project Isee, which means International Sun and Earth Exploration. Two satellites were launched in October 1977 as part of this project. It is hoped that they will improve on the measurements the Helios satellites sent back and throw new light on the important area of solar-terrestrial connections.

If the Spaceshuttle works correctly for once, Esa and Nasa will launch a space telescope to measure ultra-violet radiation in inter-galactic space and from distant stars. This radiation does not reach the earth and so is out of the range of ordinary observatories.

Firewheel is the name of an Esa project developed by Professor Haerendel at the Max Planck Institute in Garching. Clouds of barium are to be dropped at a height of 200 kilometres to measure the earth's magnetosphere.

The second test launching of Ariane will be in December 1979 and it will then be clear what further space research can be done. The project is



Sun probe: German-American solar probe being mounted on its Titan Centaur rocket. (Photo: MBB)

known as Oscar and its sole function is to facilitate communication between radio hams, so that they can send their "hello, how are you?" messages out into space.

World-wide communication from home to home will no longer be on shortwave but by satellite.

Nasa and Esa recently started another project — a satellite specially equipped to pick up star spectra in the ultraviolet area. The main instrument on the space vehicle is a 45 cm telescope. The Europeans will be able to contact the satellite via the ground station at Villafranca near Madrid. *Horst Rademacher*

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 22 April 1978)

■ FILMS

Does German film talent transplant?





The emigrants of film: Bernhard Wicki, success and then an over-shot budget; Fritz Lang, adapted to Hollywood; Ernst Lubitsch, transformed slapstick.

(Photos: Interpress 2,

Prominent German film director Rainer Werner Fassbinder is always threatening to emigrate to America — after he has completed his next project.

Wim Wenders, too, is seriously considering a move to the promised land of film. And they are not the only ones who complain that it is impossible to work in West Germany.

Is there going to be a wave of emigration by German film directors to the USA? If so, it would be the fourth one. It is worth looking back on how their predecessors got on in the USA.

The first wave was in the 1920s. America was the leading film-making country in the world and the film metropolis of Hollywood had the money to attract the finest European talent. The most prominent filmmakers to go to Hollywood from Germany were Ernst Lubitsch, F.W. Murnau and Ewald Andre Dupont.

Murnau had caused a sensation with his horror film *Nosferatu* and won a place in film history with his *Last Man*. He failed to find success in Hollywood. *Sunrise*, a film based on Hermann Sudermann's *Journey to Tilsit*, aroused some interest, but Murnau's third film was taken out of his hands and given to another director. He retired to a South Sea island where he produced *Taboo* at his own expense. This was a retreat to the "noble savage", a flight from civilisation. In this respect, Murnau had much in common with modern filmmakers.

Lubitsch had more luck. He came to Hollywood in 1923, after Murnau. His genre was film comedy with the famous "Lubitsch touch." He transformed the slapstick humour with his European nonchalance and his risqué allusions got past the puritanical film censors. Lubitsch also had a free hand in the production of his films, something Murnau had never had.

E.A. Dupont, who made his first American film in 1928, is now virtually forgotten in Germany. His *Variété* (1925) been a significant move away from expressionism in film, but in Hollywood he was never any more than a run-of-the-mill director.

The German directors who emigrated to the US in the 1930s did not do so voluntarily. The most prominent among them was Fritz Lang, a good example of how a great director can accept the aesthetic rules of another film culture and still remain himself.

Robert Siodmak who, with Billy Wilder, had risen to fame in 1929 with the film *Menschen am Sonntag*, also adapted rapidly. He became a master of the thriller. Douglas Sirk (Hans Detlef Sirk) is still a controversial figure, rediscovered recently by German cineasts. His parents were Danish but he grew up in Germany, where he was a master of lachrymose melodrama. In America he continued producing his tear-jerkers, which went down well.

Henry Koster (Hermann Kosterlitz), an unknown in Germany, achieved solid average success in America.

As a rule directors who left Germany during the 30s were successful in Hollywood. They were practical filmmakers who had no difficulty adapting. This cannot be said of the third wave of emigré German directors in the 1950s and 60s. There seemed to be a revival in the German cinema of those days and Hollywood was eager to repeat the successes of the 20s by taking on successful German directors.

Things did not work out that way. Helmut Käutner's two American films, *Too Young* and *A Stranger in My Arms*, are no more than copies of average Hollywood films. Käutner soon came back, his style of filmmaking too typically German to be a commercial success in America.

Bernhard Wicki, a Swiss who worked in Germany, did not fare much better. After the success of his film *Die Brücke* in 1959, he was an assistant director of *The Longest Day* and in 1965 directed the war drama *Morituri* in America. He took months longer than planned to finish the film and overshot the budget by eight million dollars and the film was still not a success.

It was clear that the brilliant and ambitious style of filmmaking in Germany did not suit Hollywood. In America solid commercial films are produced. They are what the public wants and they bring in the money. Occasionally one of them even turns out to have artistic merit, but this is not the rule.

The Hollywood directors who came back to Germany found difficulty adapting to the German system. Renowned though they were, they no longer belonged. Fritz Lang, in whom the critics had great hopes, made three films, all remakes of his silent film successes: *Der Tiger von Eschnapur* and *Das indische Grabmal* (The Indian Grave), both made in 1958, and *Die 1000 Augen des Dr. Mabuse* (1960). They were complete failures. Lang returned to Hollywood for ever.

Robert Siodmak, on the other hand, held his own back home. *Nachts, wenn der Teufel kam* (Night, when the Devil Came) and *Der Schulfreund* were respectable works, *Der Schatz der Azteken* (The Treasure of the Aztecs) and *Der Kampf um Rom* (The Battle for Rome) were extremely poor.

William (Wilhelm) Dieterle, who only made a name for himself in America and was a specialist in autobiographical films — his works include *Louis Pasteur*, *Juarez*, *Emile Zola* and *Florence Nightingale* — made only two feeble films, *Herrin der Welt* (The Mistress of the World), and *Fastnachtsbeichte* (Shrove Tuesday Confession) before giving up altogether.

Frank Wisbar, who left Germany in 1938 and became a prominent television director in America, produced a number of passable war films such as *Hunde, wollt ihr ewig leben?* (Do you want to live for ever, you runts?) before returning to TV. Max Reinhardt's son Gottfried, who worked mainly as a producer in the USA, returned to Berlin in 1954 but could not prevent the decline of the German film either as a producer or as a director. Nor could Erich Pommer, who had been a producer in the golden days of *Ufa*. He gave up and returned to the USA in 1955.

There is unlikely to be a fourth wave of film emigration to Hollywood. Any director who risked such a move would undoubtedly fail. The only filmmakers who have succeeded in Hollywood have come from healthy film industries elsewhere. The 50s and 60s wave of emigration did not work. And since then the gap between American and German cinema has become greater.

Hollywood would not tolerate directors portraying themselves. Even Fritz Lang had to master American film language before he could produce his successful American works. No modern German filmmaker is anywhere near an American style. And who among them is likely to give up his heavy teutonic style? They are all far too sensitive for that. Fassbinder in Hollywood? Well, I suppose it would make a good subject for a film.

Sven Hansen

(Die Welt, 15 April 1978)

Wolfgang Staudte back to his old themes again

Wolfgang Staudte has just completed his first cinema film for eight years. It is entitled *Zwischengleis* (Between Platforms) and stars Mel Ferrer, Pola Kinski, Martin Lüttge and Hannelore Schroth.

Producer Dr. Harald Müller describes the film as a story of "love, violence and hope." The action takes place in post-war Germany between 1946 and 1961, in and around Munich.

I asked Wolfgang Staudte: "Is this a film about the ruins of post-war Germany?" Staudte, grey-haired and in his late 60s, shook his head: "It is about the ruins that war leaves behind in people's hearts, heads and souls."

Staudte's last film was the amusing but trivial *Herren mit den Weissen Westen* (Gentlemen with white Waistcoats) in 1970. Since then he has been working mainly as a television director (*Der Seewolf* and *Lockruf des Goldes* are among his TV works) and has also directed German versions of foreign films, including *Clockwork Orange*.

Now Staudte is returning to his old theme of the effects of National Socialism on ordinary people. Between 1945 and 1960 he made a number of socially critical films on contemporary themes: *Die Mörder sind unter uns* (The Murderers are Among Us), *Rotation*, *Rosen für den Staatsanwalt* (Roses for the State Prosecutor) and *Kirmes* (The Fair).



Mel Ferrer, director Wolfgang Staudte and Hannelore Schroth on the set of Staude's new film *Zwischengleis* (Between Platforms). (Photo: Chris Nowotny)

The script for *Zwischengleis* was not written by Staudte himself but by Munich writer Dorothee Dhan, who has written the script for the film *Das Einhorn* (The Unicorn) based on the eponymous novel by Martin Walser.

Zwischengleis is an original work full of autobiographical details.

Staudte summarises the plot as follows: the story of two people with different backgrounds, both uprooted by the war and the Third Reich, who try to find a way out of the past and into a brighter future.

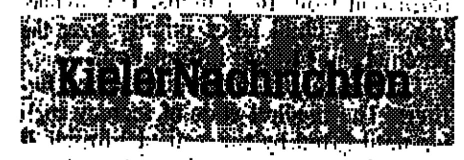
"Anna, a 17-year-old refugee (played by Pola Kinski) gets to know US officer Henry (played by Mel Ferrer) when she applies for a much sought-after post as secretary with the military government. They fall in love but their great hopes remain unfulfilled because the memory of violence and death cannot be erased by love alone.

"Henry, the Jewish colonel, is neither

Continued on page 11

■ PASSION PLAY

Oberammergau clings fast to controversial version



In a history of the Oberammergau passion play we read: "If Kaspar Schisler had not suddenly felt homesick in 1633, who knows what the history of our village would have been?"

Schisler had left the plague-infested Werdenfels area and returned to Oberammergau, a village in the remote upper part of the Ammer valley. Unknowingly, he brought the plague with him.

The plague decimated the village and only ceased its ravages when the villagers vowed that they would perform a play representing Christ's Passion every ten years if the Lord would free them of it.

The wish was granted and since then the Oberammergau passion play has been performed every ten years (except in 1770 and 1810 when the authorities banned the performance on the grounds that it was "too sensual a representation of the Passion" and during the two world wars.) Virtually the entire village is involved in one way or another.

Over the years there has been increasing controversy in the village and outside about the play.

One objection frequently voiced was that it was not right to make money out of Our Lords's Passion. This criticism is still heard but it is not the main one.

The main reason for the disputes and arguments is the play text. In 1960 the American Jewish Congress complained that it contained a number of anti-Semitic passages and formulations.

After the massacres of Jews in German concentration camps during the Third Reich, such formulations coming from German lay actors would appear hurtful and dubious to an international audience, the body argued. There are, for instance, references to "the cursed synagogue" and "a Jewish brood of vipers."

Dr Prinz, then president of the congress, also criticised the portrayal of certain figures: "Pontius Pilate is portrayed as racially and intellectually superior, as a solid, noble, rock-like figure among 'a bunch of Jews.' This was what delighted Hitler during the 300th anniversary performance in 1934."

The people of Oberammergau with their obstinate Bavarian sense of tradition did not take these objections very seriously. The text was written long before the Nazi era. The present version had been performed since 1860 without any major changes.

This version was written by Alois Daisenberger, then Clerical Councillor in Oberammergau. Daisenberger stuck closely to the New Testament text for the most part and relied on his own rather naive imagination for the rest. The people of Oberammergau pointed out that the play had been directed since 1922 by the same person, Georg Lang, former head of the Oberammergau School of Woodcarving.

In the mid 70s, Hans Schwaighofer, who played Judas in 50 and 1960 and was to have been director of the play in 1970, proposed that the 1750 baroque version of the play by Ferdinand Rosner should be used, not only because the modern version had been attacked for its anti-Semitism but also for literary reasons.

The Rosner version is not, like he present version, a series of biblical scenes interspersed with sermon-like prologues. It is written in the style of the mediaeval mystery play. It is a dramatic struggle between the elemental forces of faith and unbelief, between God and the Devil.

In Rosner's version, evil is not personified in Judas so much as in the devil: The religious controversy between Christians and Jews plays no part. It is a struggle between good and evil in the shape of Christ and Satan.

The language of the Rosner version is far more vivid and powerful than the Daisenberger text, which has no literary pretensions or merit. In recent performances there has been a marked artistic contrast between the opulence of the stage design and the linguistic poverty of Daisenberger's version.

Hans Schwaighofer had only a minority of the villagers behind him in his argument for the Rosner version. Outside the village he had considerable support, including that of Carl Orff, who offered to write the accompanying music for the baroque version of the text.

Schwaighofer put his proposal to the local council, who voted for it by a majority of one. The majority of the villagers then boycotted the proposal. There was an official poll of all voters.

Only 40 per cent turned out and a majority voted against Schwaighofer. He then resigned the directorship of the play and did not take part as an actor in the subsequent performances.

Benedictine priest Stephan Schaller from the neighbouring Ettal monastery was commissioned to revise the Daisenberger version. He had a similar dissapointment to that of Schwaighofer.

Schaller not only believed that the offensive anti-Semitic passages had to be cut. He also wanted the prologues to the Passion scenes, at present in rhymed sermon form, to be brought up to date. There were a number of theologically inaccurate details in the play which he wanted altered.

The local council told him even before he started work that they could not go along with new versions of the prologue. If this was not enough, they changed his text in the rehearsals. Pater Schaller withdrew from the entire project. Of course it is understandable that the people of Oberammergau should be reluctant to abandon the version they have grown familiar with over the years in favour of a new, more difficult text (but one far more valuable from a literary point of view). After all, these people give up virtually all their free time for a whole year. Where else will one find anything like this is our hectic age? The Oberammergau villages believe their ostinacy to be justified by the fact that the 1970 performances were completely sold out.



Crucifiction scene during the Oberammergau Passion Play: controversy may sap the villagers' commitment. (Photo: Ewald Haag)

The dispute carried on after the 1970 Passion Play. Deputy mayor Helmut Fischer, a lawyer who played the part of Christ in 1970, led the reformists; mayor Zwink led the traditionalists. Agreement was reached that the talented Hans Schwaighofer should be commissioned to direct a number of scenes from the Rosner version.

These scenes were performed in the summer of 1977. The press reviews were favourable and the archdiocese of Munich was well disposed. The Jewish community in Bavaria expressed its approval of the new version. All appeared to be going well.

Then another poll was conducted among the villagers of Oberammergau and again this proved the downfall of the reformists. The villages were asked to answer 11 questions, including the vital one of whether they were for or against reform.

Only two-thirds of those entitled to vote voted this time. Only 60 per cent answered all the questions, the rest just answering the question on reform, and most of them were against it.

Of those who answered all the questions, half were for, half against the reform. On the whole, the majority were against the reform.

A new controversy broke out. The advocates of the Rosner version claimed that only those votes on which all 11 questions were answered should count. The traditionalists argued that all should count.

Again the local council had to make the final decision. Despite the majority against reform, the council voted by ten to six for it. And that, one might think, was that. But the Bavarians do not give up easily, and the traditionalists were not going to accept the decision without a fight.

At the beginning of March there were local elections in Oberammergau and a new council was voted in. In Oberammergau it was not a question of voting Christian Socialist or Social Democrat. The issue was: are you for or against the Rosner version?

The good people of Oberammergau voted half the Rosner supporters out of office and replaced them with Daisenberger backers. And when the new council meets for the first time at the beginning of May, they will vote 11 to five to scrap the plans for reform.

It is an open question whether the people of Oberammergau will be as enthusiastic and commited in their preparations for the 1980 performance of the Passion Play as in previous years. The argument has caused a deep split between the citizens.

It is quite possible that all the performances between Whitsun and autumn of 1980 will be sold out. No doubt the organisers will be able to attract enough "weeping Englishwomen", curious Americans and newly-converted Christians from Africa and Asia.

The neutral observer must conclude that if this play is to have any meaning in our time and for new generations, changes have to be made. The stubbornness of the people of Oberammergau is not so much evidence of a living sense of tradition as of a rigid and retrograde way of thinking.

Claus Kolberg

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 April 1978)

Continued from page 10

American nor German. In desperation he signs up for the war in Korea, where he is killed. The refugee Anna suffers from a trauma because as a 14-year-old girl she had to fight in order to survive. She suffers from the fate of her entire nation, not from her own guilt."

This is the first major film role for actor Klaus Kinski's daughter Pola, a recognised theatre actress. Relaxed and experienced Mel Ferrer, last seen in Purzer's *Netz* (Net) flew back to the US the day filming ended to start work on the epic *The Norsemen*.

Dorothee Dhan's script for *Zwischengleis* won a DM250,000 Ministry of the Interior Prize last year. The German Film Institute's project commission has provided DM300,000. It is co-produced by the Bayrischer Rundfunk.

Scriptwriter Dahn explains the title thus: "This is a film about reality, between beginning and end. Visually the viewer is standing between two platforms, one leading into the future, the other into the past."

One little episode from filming will illustrate how politically sensitive the subject is for the Americans. A dancing scene was due to be filmed in the officers' mess in MacGraw barracks in Munich. Everything seemed to be all right. The actors were wearing post-war clothes, the band was playing the music of the time.

Then the news came through that permission to film had been refused. The MacGraw barracks authorities got in touch with the US headquarters in Heidelberg.

Finally the go-ahead was given, after permission had been granted via satellite from Washington.

Hans Jürgen Weber

(Der Tagesspiegel, 16 April 1978)

■ HEALTH

Fighting off the fungi invasion

Mushrooms make most people think of the little plant that sprouts in forests and meadows after an autumn rain and can be delectable to the gourmet.

Some might also think of the fungus causing mildew on food and frequently on cosmetics.

But mushrooms also include the micro-organisms from which we derive antibiotics. Yeast, used in baking and brewing, also belongs in the mushroom or fungi family.

A total of 100,000 types of mushroom is known – and some can cause disease. For instance, several dozen micro fungi affect the skin, hair and fingernails, causing ailments frequently confused with skin diseases.

Hairlike dermatophytes, which feed on skin flakes and absorb dirty water and sweat, can cause a skin disease called dermatomycosis.

These fungi thrive where sweat does not evaporate, in moist folds of the skin.

Another widespread fungus desease is athlete's foot, which causes an annoying itch between the toes.

Since most of these fungi cause relatively little descomfort, they are usually ignored. Few think it necessary to see a doctor for an itch.

Modern conditions evidently promote the spreading of fungi. A growing number of families keep pets, and the coats of dogs, cats or guinea pigs are breeding places for fungi, frequently be transferred to man, causing disease.

Swimming pools and mass tourism further increase the danger.

Modern clothing, with its high proportion of man-made fibres – which block air circulation – creates a tropical climate around the skin, ideal conditions for fungi.

Our diet, too, especially the great intake of ice cream and sweets, promotes the growth of flora.

But, as a seminar organised by the chemicals firm Bayer was told, not everybody is susceptible to fungi.

Those familiar with the danger of micro-organisms can, as Professor H. Rieth, Hamburg, told the meeting, take preventive action by leading a "fungi-conscious life."

This means being prepared to defend themselves against illness resulting from the organisms.

Experts are at odds on how such protection can be achieved. The main obstacle lies in wrong ideas.

For instance, the widespread minimising of the fungus causing athlete's foot (even in medical textbooks) is no longer tenable today.

Fungus-conscious living begins with personal hygiene. Regular washing and thorough drying are as much part of it as the daily change of socks and underwear.

If bath water remains between the folds of the skin, "it becomes soft as a baby's bottom in waterproof nappies", an ideal breeding ground for fungi.

Bathing shoes in public baths prevent us from stepping into infectious skin flakes shed by a carrier.

Should a person contract an infection despite all care, the cure is relatively simple.

There are a number of effective fungicides.

But in view of the large number of different fungi that can affect the skin, doctors would be overtaxed if expected to identify each type of fungus and treat it with a drug designed specifically for it.

The virtually unnoticeable foot mycoses can, according to Professor Wolf Meinhof, Aachen, lead to severe inflammations.

The fungae frequently fail to respect the frontiers of the foot, spreading to the face and other parts of the body.

Another unpleasant side effect is fungal attack on fingernails.

Although foot mycoses and the diseases resulting from them are widespread, the public health authorities have so far shown little interst.

Professor Wolfgang Stille of Frankfurt said an increasing number of cases had been registered lately where foot mycoses caused by mildew fungae had not remained in the folds of the skin but had entered the organism, causing severe (and in some instances lethal) infections.

Some fungae enter the blood, reaching heart, brain and kidneys.

The lungs, the respiratory and the urinary tracts are particularly susceptible. If this is coupled with reduced natural flora of bacteria due to treatment with antibiotics, the invading fungi find ideal conditions and can literally mushroom.

Septicemia and pneumonia, Professor Stille said, are the most important fungal infections of internal medicine.

Professor Johannes D. Schnell of Düsseldorf said that there had recently been an increase of fungal deseases of the female sex organs. Ten to 14 per cent of women have yeast fungae in the vagina, above all *candida albicans* and *torulopsis*.

As a rule, this causes no complaints, but various factors inherent in the body and outside elements can combine to cause considerable problems.

The antimycotic drugs available today can easily cure such mycoses, but the spouse must also be treated in order to prevent a ping-pong effect.

Dermatophytes, mildew fungae and bacteria-like yeast fungae are on the increase world-wide. With it the danger to man increases.

The reasons are obvious: the ecology between man and fungae has been disturbed for some time. On the one hard, mushrooms are meant to serve man, and without them we would have no antibiotics with which to combat bacterial infections.

"But", says Professor Rieth, "if the bacteria are driven from the skin and mucuous membranes, fungae take over the vacated feeding grounds."

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 April 1978)

Doctors call for keeping child patients' secrets

What children and youngsters discuss with a doctor in his surgery concerns no-one else – not even the parents, according to the German medical society.

"The medical code of secrecy applies to minors as well", says the *Hartmannbund* German medical society in Bonn in a press release.

As a result, doctors are claiming the right to prescribe the Pill to girls over 14 without parental consent.

The special doctor-patient relationship which rests on faith can be decisive for the success of a therapy.

The legal position is tricky. A spokesman for the Bonn Health Ministry summed up the conflict: "The child's right to self-determination and a private sphere referred to in the *Hartmannbund* statement could conflict with parental rights."

According to the *Hartmannbund*, children should be permitted to consult a doctor without their parents knowing about it if something is troubling them.

But in such a case, says Dr Angela Hollmann, legal adviser of the Lower Saxony Medical Association and co-author of the *Hartmannbund* statement, the doctor would risk not getting paid if the parents disapproved of the consultation.

There is the case of the resolute mother who pushes her 10-year old boy into the surgery saying, "Please examine my boy, doctor ... his performance at school has suddenly become so bad."

The doctor asks the mother to leave the surgery, suspecting that the boy is in the difficult pre-puberty stage and that he should therefore have a "man-to-man" talk with him.

According to the *Hartmannbund*, the doctor would in such a case have every right to bar parents from the consulting room.

In many ten to 12-year olds, conflicts at home and school lead to neuroses, psychosomatic disorders and stress ailments.

"More and more children suffer from depression, insomnia, inability to learn and psychosomatic headaches or abdominal pains. If they so wish, they must have direct access to a doctor", says the *Hartmannbund*.

Ideally, there should be nothing parents should not know about their children. But there are cases where the causes of a complaint in a child lie with the parents.

According to legal experts, it is obvious that in such cases the doctor can (and in many instances must) keep information from the parents. The wellbeing of the child takes priority over the parental right to full information.

Dr Angela Hollmann goes a step further: "The medical code of secrecy applies until lifted by the patient himself. If the child does not release the doctor from this obligation, he has no choice but to remain silent."

This view is not undisputed among doctors and the legal profession. Some experts feel that the parents, acting on behalf of a minor, can force the doctor to disclose medical information.

They could also have this right as a party to the treatment contract.

Other experts believe this would enable a stepfather who has abused his stepdaughter sexually to impose secrecy on the doctor.

It is up to the parents to decide whether to permit certain forms of treatment or surgery for their child. The Ministry of Justice is at present redrafting the parental care legislation and the draft Bill will have an addition to the Civil Code, whereby minors over 14 can decide themselves whether a doctor may carry out a specific type of surgery.

Even medical circles are unhappy about such regulations because this would put the onus on doctors to determine whether the child is aware of the consequences of surgery.

The most frequent argument is over the Pill. Many doctors prescribe it to young girls without parental approval.

Says gynaecologist Dr Dietrich von Abel, who helped draft the *Hartmannbund* statement: "If a doctor is not to be permitted to prescribe the Pill to minors and if he is not to keep quiet about it, girls will no longer consult a doctor. This will lead to unwanted pregnancies or the girls will get the Pill on the black market, forgoing essential medical control."

Dr von Abel says, however, that the legal position is unclear: "If the parents expressly forbid the Pill, I would not want to take it to court. Fortunately, most parents will discuss the matter with the doctor, though this is not always easy to bring about.

"The *Hartmannbund* statement on medical secrecy with regard to minors is meant as an appeal to parents to ponder this problem and to grant their children a certain scope of decision."

Horst Zimmermann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 16 April 1978)

Mid-life crises 'not a fact'

The "mid-life crisis" is an invention in best-sellers rather than a scientific fact – at least so far as it has to do with psychological changes, a meeting of psychotherapists has been told.

Professor Horst-Eberhard Richter of Giessen, told the 28th Lindau psychotherapy week that everybody realising that he was no youngster talked of a "mid-life crisis", reacting to it with depression and general physical discomfort.

But the problems of various age groups were not biologically programmed but primarily governed by changes in circumstance.

The characteristics of a generation could only be viewed in connection with age groups living together at any given time.

There was no recipe for the treatment of the imagined mid-life crisis, treatment which would entail shedding the obsession with youthfulness and becoming a self-sufficient, mature personality.

A number of psychotherapists at Lindau dealt with the problem under the general heading "Bewilderment and new orientation before mid-life."

Dr Hans Dieckmann of Berlin, attempted to sketch a psychology of adulthood; while until mid-life, man forms his ego and experiences it as the meaning of life, in mid-life the accent shifts to the self. But the problems arising from this shift are suppressed in our civilisation through the attempt to extend youth.

Social conditions such as longer training periods, growth and progress ideology and the attendant necessity to adapt to circumstances promote the extention of infantile dependencies into ever older age. Quoting the student uprisings of 1967-68 as an example, Dr Ulrich Streek, of Göttingen, demonstrated the conflict created by the necessity of such adaptation: person's relation to his occupation remained superficial in the "restless generation" and the lack of "identification with the role" gave rise to severe stress.

Most people retained their independence and critical aloofness from the lures of an "occupation-oriented cushion".

Werner Thurnshirn

(Münchner Merkur, 19 April 1978)

■ EDUCATION

Teachers plea to expand English teaching success

Following the success of a Lower Saxony scheme, educationists are now calling for English to be taught in all primary schools, rather than starting in secondary school. For the past seven years, English has been taught in the third and fourth classes of a dozen primary schools in the south-east of Lower Saxony.

English is not normally taught until the secondary school, that is, from the fifth class onwards. By the time these children from Braunschweig, Salzgitter and Wolfsburg get to secondary school, they will have had two years of English.

The pupils clearly enjoy learning English in the third class, their teachers praise their eagerness to learn and speak and their progress. Educationists at the Lower Saxony Teachers' Training College who introduced the scheme are now advocating that English be taught in all primary schools.

The research team led by Prof. Peter Doyé spent five years observing the progress of over a thousand pupils in the experiment. This was the first time in this country and the fourth time in Europe that the teaching of a foreign language in primary schools has been observed with a representative sample over a long period.

The results have been described in a paperback written by Peter Doyé and Dieter Lüttge entitled *Untersuchungen zum Englischunterricht in der Grundschule*, (Braunschweig 1977), published by Georg Westermann Verlag. The book has aroused considerable interest at home and abroad. Doyé has received many letters from parents, teachers and educational authorities interested in the scheme.

So far he has received no answer from the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education to which he first sent the results.

The unusual feature of the Braunschweig experiment, financed by the Volkswagen Foundation, is that the children who started learning English in the third class stayed in the same class until their seventh school year.

This meant English could be continued in secondary school where the pupils had left off at the end of the primary school.

Peter Doyé summarises the most important results of the experiment as:

- Over a long period, pupils who started in the third class were better at English than those who started in the fifth.
- The early start in English did not affect the children's achievements in other school subjects.
- At the end of the experiment, 74 per cent of the pupils believed they had benefitted from the earlier start.
- 81 per cent of parents were in favour of English being taught from the third class onwards.
- Of the teachers who took part in the scheme, 97 per cent were in favour of the earlier start. Two-thirds of the other teachers also favoured an early start.

The pupils have four twenty-minute lessons a week in which they talk and sing in English only.

A typical lesson in Class 3a at Braunschweig-Melverode primary school goes like this: the teacher comes in and says good morning and the children all return the greeting vociferously. The teacher has brought a hat and a pair of high heeled shoes which the children have great fun trying on. While they are doing this and the hat and shoes are being passed around the class, they are painlessly, indeed pleasurably, learning the English verb to put on.

Shortly afterwards, two children wearing the shoes and hats play the parts of their textbook heroes Andy and Sandy in a playlet. Their English is so natural and good that many a German tourist would turn green with envy comparing his stumbling attempts with their confident speech.

After the lesson the teacher told me that the experiment has been positive in every respect. Children thoroughly enjoyed the lessons which were enlivened by games, rhymes and riddles. As no marks were awarded in the third and fourth classes, the children were "very relaxed" and not even the weaker pupils had any inhibitions about speaking.

Despite this experiment, the chances that English, the international language, will be made compulsory for pupils from the third class onwards in the near future are slim.

"It looks as if governments are more interested in political and economic considerations when deciding on foreign language teaching in schools than in the results of scientific research," say Doyé and Lüttge at the end of their book.

There are rumours in the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education, which approved the scheme in the heady days of reform in 1970, that the number of English lessons at primary schools is to be cut from four to three.

It is also rumoured that "weaker" secondary modern school (Hauptschule) pupils will be given the chance to give up English at the end of the seventh class.

Peter Doyé has protested strongly against these plans of Lower Saxony Minister of Education Werner Remmer. He says a qualification in English is essential if a pupil is to pass the basic leaving certificate or transfer to a different kind of school.

There is a danger that a large number of *Hauptschule* pupils will have their careers endangered as a result of a wrong decision in the seventh class.

The rumoured move, he says, will not help the Hauptschule pupils but will limit their chances in later life. It is an irresponsible act of discrimination counter to the tendency in most European schools to extend rather than limit the range of opportunities for learning foreign languages.

Manfred Laube

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 April 1978)

Professor wants teachers trained in sex education

Many teachers at West German schools have to teach their pupils about human reproduction without having any proper training.

Professor Rudi Maskus, director of the school education seminar at the Bonn section of Rhineland Teachers' Training College, says the "wretched state of sex education" is obvious for all to see.

Universities provided inadequate courses on this subject when they provided courses at all. There was no chair of sex education at any university.

The Federal Constitutional Court recently ruled that sex education can be given at schools even without the consent of parents. But are teachers capable of teaching this delicate subject satisfactorily?

Professor Maskus has grave doubts. He says the theory and practice of sex education in this country is "very unsatisfactory." He runs lecture courses on the subject at Bonn which are always overcrowded with students. Very few of his colleagues offer similar courses, he says.

The Conference of Land Ministers of Education published recommendations on sexual education as long ago as 1968. Guidelines (*Richtlinien*) on the subject have been laid down in the Länder.

Sex education is not a subject in itself. It is dealt with within the framework of other subjects, not only biology.

In an interview with dpa (German Press Agency) Professor Maskus said many teachers neglected sex education because they were not properly trained to teach it and feared possible difficulties with parents or the general public.

He cited the example of Northrhine-Westphalia where, according to the guidelines still in force, at least three aspects of sex education have to be dealt with in every school year. Not a single teacher had been systematically trained to teach according to these guidelines.

The result of this inadequate training was that teachers taught in what they believed to be the right way, in some cases alarming.

A group of university and school teachers, students and laymen recently formed The German Society for Sex Education in to improve this lamentable situation.

The aims are the furtherance of scientifically based sexual education and the setting up of advisory centres and working parties. Three of these have already been started in Giessen, Wetzlar and Frankfurt. The group has written to MPs and ministers of education.

The society believes sex education should not encourage rampant promiscuity nor should it condemn sex as a work of the devil. It wants all aspects, the moral, aesthetic, educational as well as the biological, to be taken into account.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 18 April 1978)

Violent parents 'repeating own experience'

Parents who ill-treat their children are often themselves the victims of lack of affection or maltreatment by their own parents during childhood, according to Professor Gerd Bierman, child psychiatrist and director of the Cologne Institute of Psychology.

Many parents who beat their children themselves grew up in environments where this kind of behaviour was common, he told a conference on the protection of the young in Minich. Biermann described parental violence as "one of the great unsolved problems of our time."

Unwanted children were in particular danger in all classes of society. Unmarried and young, inexperienced mothers frequently worked off their pent-up resentments about their unhappy partnerships on unwanted children.

Official figures recorded that:

- About 5243 cases of maltreatment of children were registered from 1973 to 1976.
- More than 150 children a year die as the direct result of parental violence.
- 300 children become invalids or severely disabled for the rest of their lives as a result of such violence.

These are only the official figures. We can assume the real figures are much higher because 90 per cent of all cases of maltreatment of children were not reported during this period.

Beating is still considered to be an effective method of bringing up children in 85 per cent of all households in this country. In many cases, these beatings have more to do with parents working off anger and frustration than concern for the children's wellbeing.

Biermann told his audience that children could literally be beaten silly. Smacks on the backside could cause brain damage.

He warned that psychological terror had even more serious consequences than beating, strangling, pushing, burning and scalding, locking up and even sexual abuse of children. Constant shouting at children, isolating them by not talking to them, ridiculing or complaining about them in front of others and starving them of affection were acts which could lead to severe psychological problems.

dpa

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 13 April 1978)

■ SOCIETY

Women at the top: how they get there – and why they want to

For the first time in West Germany researchers have seriously examined the subject of career women.

They interviewed successful women, asking how they saw themselves, their family life and their motivation for professional advancement.

The results of the polls have now been made public by *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG*, (German research community), which commissioned and financed the study.

Only university graduates working in traditionally male occupations where the quota of women is less than 10 per cent were interviewed.

They were managers, university professors, medical directors of hospitals and judges and earned an average net of DM 58,000 a year. Another qualification for interviewing was that they should be in authority over academically qualified people.

"I have absolutely nothing against women. But I'd prefer to see a man as medical director of our hospital. They are more objective and can take more stress. A woman in that position would definitely be a handicap to us."

This sounds as if said by an aging hospital director in an interview with a feminist magazine which wanted to exemplify male arrogance. Actually, it was said by a woman, a 44-year-old doctor who made it to the top in a profession still considered a male domain.

Is this attitude of a relatively young woman typical of all women in high-ranking and well-paid jobs? Or are successful women graduates the vanguard of emancipation?

The number of unmarried career women is conspicuously high: well over half those interviewed lived alone.

One of the researchers pointed out that a similar study on male careers would never have raised the question of marital status. But with a highly-qualified woman it is a matter of paramount importance whether career and family can be reconciled or whether the one excludes the other.

The situation for the self-employed is somewhat better.

"When my child was still small," said a woman architect, "I frequently had to take him to the office with me, bedding

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

him down on a desk. Later I continued to have him in the office in his pram."

This way of combining motherhood and career is impossible for the employed, who frequently put in up to 12 hours work a day.

While men in executive positions take it for granted that their families must show some consideration, this does not apply to women. Their private life is a burden rather than a source of relaxation.

"Making a career is much more difficult for a woman – if for no other reason because she lacks one major ingredient of success: a wife," said one career woman.

And there are other difficulties to overcome. Businessmen feel discriminated against when the Internal Revenue Department assigns "only a woman" to audit their books.

Some secretaries adamantly refuse to work for a woman. And a bank asked a woman economist earning DM 150,000 a year to present written authority from her husband before allowing her to draw money from her account.

Despite such obstacles, most women are reluctant to talk of genuine discrimination – perhaps because they do not want to appear over-sensitive.

"I have always made a point of not appearing militant and I never permit anyone to see me cry. One must never display womanly whims and moods," said a lawyer of her career strategy.

Almost all interviewees said that they were expected to perform every bit as well as their male counterparts. Their self-confidence rested with their success and sense of achievement.

"You will find no duds among women, otherwise they would never have managed to climb the ladder of success," said a medical director.

Apart from good training, the study showed that motivation was a major element in the success of women in top positions.

They had to forgo private interests and permanent personal ties.

As opposed to men, women are not primarily interested in high earnings and a secure future. Independence and interesting work are more important. None wanted a career for its own sake.

Despite the toughness needed career women are not superwomen, nor do they seek the image.

Though they do not stress their femininity, they are well aware of its potential as an instrument of success.

The women who have made it to the top are not women's libbers and followers of Alice Schwarzer. They are not striving for radical emancipation. Politically, most of them tend towards the conservative.

Only 23 per cent vote for the SPD, while 39 per cent feel their interests better represented by CDU and CSU; 16 per cent waver between CDU and FDP, and six per cent vote for the FDP.

Michael Hin

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 15 April 1978)

'Househusband' fights for equal rights

The petition committee of the Northrhine-Westphalia *Landtag* (state assembly) has to deal with a demand for equality for men – 20 years after the equality law giving women the same rights as men came into force.

The petitioner is Harald Utecht, 29, of Cologne, who demands that the same rights apply to his occupation of "househusband" as apply to housewives.

The issue has been triggered by a Cologne court which stuck to the letter and ruled that there was no provision in law for the profession of househusband.

But every child – or at least every child who watches TV – knows that househusbands exist in this country.

While no exact figures are available, it is estimated that at least 500 male Cologners look after the house, do laundry, darn socks, shop, cook, tend babies, prepare children for school and do all the other chores while their wives go to work.

In some instances, the roles are exchanged because the wife has a much more lucrative profession than the husband. Sometimes the husband simply wants to work towards a university exam, which he finds easier this way.

But there are also couples who decide that the father has more aptitude for childrearing.

The position of househusbands in the Federal Republic of Germany is tricky. Many of them are gaped at like exotic animals, neighbours and friends mock them, saying that a real man does not belong at the kitchen stove.

Harald Utecht has become used to mockery and it does not bother him unduly.

For the past four years he has been taking care of the household and looking after his two children, aged four and five, while his wife works as a librarian.

The fact that he has now lost his patience and resorted to the petition committee, pointing to Article 3 of the Constitution ("Men and women have equal rights" – was due to the Cologne court ruling.

Herr Utecht had been subpoenaed as a court witness but when he demanded the customary witness fee, giving as his occupation "househusband", he was turned down.

Judge and cashier referred to the law on compensation for witnesses and experts, which stipulates in Section 2 "Witnesses are to be compensated for loss of income. Compensation amounts to DM 2 to DM 12. Should no loss of income have occurred, witnesses are to be compensated at the lowest rate. Housewives are to receive DM 6 per hour."

"Had I been a woman, I would have received DM 30 for the five hours spent in court. But since there is no such thing as a househusband according to law, I got nothing," said Harald Utecht.

He did not file his petition, likely to cause the committee considerable headaches, because of the DM 30 but on principle to gain legal recognition for the occupation of househusband.

The issue also touches politicians who should stop talking about "housewife pensions" and pay some attention to househusband pensions.

Peter Rudolph

(Münchner Merkur, 12 April 1978)

■ SPORT

Helmut picks 40 World Cup finalists

The German F.A. (*Deutscher Fussball-Bund*) has announced the 40 players from which the 22-man squad to represent Germany in the World Cup finals in Argentina in June will be chosen.

The finals will be played from 1 to 25 June. The squad flies to Mexico on 23 May. Those players omitted will have to stay at home and no doubt millions of German football fans will express their approval or displeasure at national team manager Helmut Schön's choice.

One thing is now clear: Franz Beckenbauer, captain of the 1974 World Cup-winning German team and the world's best sweeper-up, will not be playing in Argentina.

This is no cause for despondency. There is no time to look back. The call for a single outstanding player to rescue the German national team has become something of a tradition.

In the 1962 World Cup finals in Chile, the player was Friz Walter. In 1974 when the German team was not playing well, the masses called for Uwe Seeler.

True, Beckenbauer in top form is supreme. It is equally true that the German team has only lost three of its last 15 games (against France, Brazil and Sweden) and has beaten teams such as Italy and Argentina, among the favourites for the World Cup.

By the kick-off of the opening game between Germany and Poland on June 1 1978 in Buenos Aires all these games and speculations will be mere memories. The team will be in South America, where it is games and goals that count.

Manager Helmut Schön summed up the team's mood: "The players all know what is at stake now. Things are quietening down and this is what we desperately need."

The list of 40 players confirms Schön's oft-repeated point that he has known for some time who was going to be in the squad.

There are no sensations. Among them there are players such as Uli Hoeness of Bayern Munich and Georg Volkert of Hamburg whose chances of inclusion in the final squad must be slim, but whom Schön wants to show that he has not forgotten.

Then there are young stars such as Wilfried Hannes of Moenchengladbach and Klaus Allofs of Fortuna Düsseldorf who are likely to play a big part in the plans of Jupp Derwall, to succeed Schön as national team manager after Argentina.

Schön has concentrated on experience in his squad, which includes such many-capped internationals as Sepp Maier and Georg Schwarzenbeck of Bayern Munich, Berti Vogts and Rainer Bonhof of Borussia Moenchengladbach and Bernd Hölzenbein of Frankfurt. All of them, along with Uli Hoeness, played in the World Cup final against Holland in 1974.

Then come players either with considerable international experience or who are playing exceptionally well for their clubs: Heinz Flohe and Dieter Müller of Cologne, Klaus Fischer of Schalke 04 and Manfred Kaltz of Hamburg SV, for example.

The list of 40 reflects the success of certain Bundesliga clubs. Seven play for FC Cologne, the German cup winners who have a good chance of winning the German league championship.

Three young players from VFB Stuttgart are included, among them Hansi Müller, whom many see as Germany's midfield general of the future.

Then there is the possibility of team blocks within the national side. With seven Cologne players, this would be possible. There were five Kaiserslautern players in the 1954 World Cup-winning team and six Bayern Munich players in the 1974 winning side.

A strong argument in favour of club team blocks is that most of the Cologne players are young. Cologne defender Zimmermann is a player who can move rapidly forward, transforming defence into attack. All this will have to be taken into account. At any rate, we now know the 40 names. *Jürgen Werner*

(Die Zeit, 21 April 1978)

Gymnastic squabbling keeps national squad in suspense

With only 170 days before the world championships in Strasbourg, the German Gymnastics Association's chief trainer, Tosca-Goswina Dorau, 42, has resigned and is to be replaced by Jana Kubicka, 33.

In September 1977 the trainers' commission recommended that Jana Kubicka should be sacked as a national trainer "for neglect of her duties." This affair still has not been settled and Kubicka is now demanding full rehabilitation.

These squabbles about money, power and authority are beginning to affect the gymnasts.

Petra Kurbjuweit, 21, national team spokeswoman, says: "We have no idea how strong we are as a national team. We do not know what is happening. We have no idea of the details of our preparation for the world championships."

Frau Dorau, national trainer since January 1977, will be taking up "a quieter and less nerve-wracking post as a lecturer at Kiel University."

It is clear that what is happening now is a repeat of what took place shortly before the Olympic Games in Montreal.

Then, too, Frau Kubicka, former world champion from Prague, took over the training of the national team from former GDR citizen Tosca-Goswina Dorau.

Kubicka was energetic and committed. "The officials of the German Gymnastics Association won't forget that", she says. "They are out to get their revenge."

Team spokeswoman Kurbjuweit recalls: "We were allowed to train together in Frankfurt. This produced results".

The result was eighth place at the Montreal Olympics. Jana Kubicka now says: "The girls are half-a-year behind schedule."

The state of the team at present is that Andrea Bieger has had an operation on her foot and cannot compete, Katrin Kühl has pulled out, Uta Schorn has given up competitive gymnastics. Traudi Schubert has given up, Angela Meyer has pulled out.

Yet again Jana Kubicka has to step in and do something. However, she insists on her rehabilitation before deciding whether to accept the offer. After the Olympic Games, Jana had two children and later had to have an abdominal



Jana Kubicka: wants full rehabilitation (Photo: Sven Simon)

operation. This is what is meant by her neglect of duty.

The German Gymnastics Association envisages that national trainer Reinhard Hornig (whom BAL director Eduard Friedrich says has "no experience of dealing with people" would be chief trainer, and Jana Kubicka would train the squad for Strasbourg.

Hornig reckons the national team will have some difficulties getting on with Kubicka.

"She was brought up under the Czechoslovakian system, which is quite different from ours. She is obsessed with performance and will try to get the best out of each gymnast. In the past she has made demands on our gymnasts which she considered quite normal but are simply not realistic in our society."

Jana Kubicka sees things differently. "The association wants the German national team to be one of the world's leaders. But it is not prepared to take the necessary steps to bring this about. If I want to put my ideas into practice, I have no chance at all."

Petra Kurbjuweit disagrees. "Frau Kubicka has a chance. We are working on the assumption that she will train the national team. Nobody asks us gymnasts what we think, that is the problem."

Klaus Blume

(Die Welt, 19 April 1978)

Fleschen breaks record – and doesn't notice

Karl Fleschen recently broke the world record over 25 kilometres, and did not even notice.

He said afterwards: "That was useful practice for the German 10,000 metre championships." These championships are still a long way off, on May 28.

"I just run the way the mood takes me. I had no idea what the world record was over this distance," he said.

Fleschen's time of 1 hour, 13 minutes, 57.8 seconds is unofficial because no records are kept for road races. The road was straight and there was a slight breeze between showers of snow.

"Conditions were pigging good," he says, a favourite expression.

Fleschen comes from the Eifel, a comparatively unspoilt rural area in the Rhineland. The advantages for a young athlete of growing up in this area are obvious. Fleschen does not suffer from the "illnesses of civilisation" so common today.

Where does he go from here? Last year he made a brilliant start to the season. He was European indoor champion over 3000 metres, almost broke the world record over 5000 metres and broke the German 3000 metres record.

However, he came nowhere in the European and world cups in August and September last year. He has now fought his way out of his loss of form.

"I don't want to start off as a big favourite and then get beaten out of sight." This is why he is only running one 10,000 metres and three 5000 metres races between May and July.

He is building up extra fitness even though his cushy days in the Bundeswehr are over. He is studying mechanical engineering in Koblenz and says he finds it difficult learning all over again.

He cannot train twice a day any more, it all has to be concentrated into one session, up to 30 kilometres at a time.

"I'm fitter now than I was last year," he says.

The general direction in which this talented young athlete is going is up.

Robert Hartmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 April 1978)